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1813

**HISTORY OF VIRGINIA,**

**FROM**

**ITS DISCOVERY TILL THE YEAR 1781.**

**WITH**

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**

**OF**

**ALL THE MOST DISTINGUISHED CHARACTERS THAT OCCUR IN  
THE COLONIAL, REVOLUTIONARY, OR SUBSEQUENT  
PERIOD OF OUR HISTORY.**

**BY J. W. CAMPBELL.**

**PETERSBURG, (Va.)**

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DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO WIT:

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\* BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the fifth day of  
\* SEAL. \* August in the thirty-eighth year of the Independence of  
\* the United States of America, A. D. 1813, John W.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Campbell of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a  
book the right whereof he claims as author in the words following to wit:

“A History of Virginia, from its discovery till the year 1781. With  
“Biographical Sketches of all the most Distinguished Characters  
“that occur in the colonial, revolutionary, or subsequent period  
“of our History.” By J. W. Campbell.

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, inti-  
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copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such  
copies during the times therein mentioned.” And also to the act, enti-  
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couragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and  
books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times  
therein mentioned,” and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of  
designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints.”

D. CALDWELL,

Clerk of the District of Pennsylvania.

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## PREFACE.

THE author of the following pages has endeavoured to compress into as small bounds as possible all that is interesting in the history of Virginia. A desire to render the work accessible to those who have neither leisure nor money for voluminous publications, has perhaps led him into a degree of baldness, at least to an extreme of brevity. It is an extreme however, which the reader if not willing to approve will be most likely to pardon.

There are no doubt defects of a more serious nature than such as arise from an uncourteous style or unskilful composition. For historical inaccuracies his only plea is, that frailty of mind and liability to err which is the lot of all. It is sufficient for him to say that he has sought truth unswayed by any bias known to himself. If he has not been so happy as always to find it, his failure affords but another proof of the imperfection of human efforts, and the va-

nity of human expectations. He who may be disposed to censure error with severity, should remember that truth is often obtained with difficulty. Perhaps he is passing judgment upon labours he has not tried and would be unwilling to encounter.

The labour of compiling a duodecimo volume would indeed be trivial, were the objects of our research not often involved in obscurity or enveloped in darkness. That mist which overspreads ages past and gone, often bewilders the diligent inquirer after truth, and defeats the ingenuous efforts of the historian.

But whatever be the merit or demerit of the work, the subject is certainly important to all:—To the statesman who wishes to trace from their foundations our political institutions and the great fabric of our government;—to the philosopher who delights to review the gradations of civil society and the progress of human knowledge;—to the less enlightened, though not less important, citizen who supports by his labour the nation, and protects her constitution by his sword. While they pos-



sess the inheritance transmitted by their fathers, they may learn to emulate their deeds. While they review the wars and hardships of their ancestors, they may know how to appreciate the blessings themselves enjoy.

The history of Virginia is on many accounts of more importance than that of her sister colonies. The early date of her origin, and the singular adventures and achievements of her first settlers: the important part she acted in the great struggle for liberty, and the illustrious characters she has given to our councils and our armies: her central situation and commercial advantages, conspire to give her a preponderance in the national scale, and render her history well worth the attention of her citizens.

Nor will the utility of this work be confined to Virginia alone, whose history is interwoven with that of the other states, and whose name for many years served to designate the whole of the English settlements on our coast.

The author cannot dismiss his prefatory remarks without tendering his thanks to those

gentlemen who have endeavoured to aid him in the prosecution of his work. From that very worthy patriot and enlightened citizen who directs the department of state, he received an invitation which did him much honour and which he regrets he was unable to accept. In his office are many documents of importance to the historian, who may have leisure to examine and patience to select. To others he is indebted for aid, which, although he may have neglected to acknowledge, he is not willing to forget.

THE  
HISTORY OF VIRGINIA.

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CHAPTER I.

THE origin of Virginia is not, like that of most nations, involved in fable and obscurity. Not much more than two centuries have elapsed since our shores were first visited by European adventurers. We are able to trace our history from the first movements of colonial infancy, and can mark with precision our moral and physical progress. If a paucity of interesting materials sometimes check our research, we are compensated for the deficiency of matter by the recency of the events, and the interest they are calculated to excite. To observe the rise of society and the changes and revolutions of states and empires, is the most pleasing, and

not the least profitable employment of the human mind. But we must feel a peculiar interest in reviewing the conduct and marking the policy of our ancestors. We shall behold our state from the very embryo of her existence rising amidst enemies, and progressing amidst difficulties towards her present grandeur and population.

It was during the reign of queen Elizabeth, that the celebrated sir Walter Raleigh projected a settlement on our coast. This illustrious statesman having obtained letters patent empowering him to discover and settle remote lands, fitted out with the assistance of his friends two small vessels for this purpose. These, under the command of captains Philip Amydas and Arthur Barlow, sailed from the Thames on the 27th of April 1584. About the middle of July they cast anchor at a place called Wococon\* on the coast of North Carolina.

\* Wococon, or Wokoken is supposed by Stith to be that now called Ocracock. Beverly says, "they anchored at an inlet by Roanoke;" and this opinion is confirm-



Soon after their landing they were visited by several of the natives, and among others by the king's brother, whose name was Granganameo. This chief discovered no apprehensions from the intrusion of the strangers, but invited them to sit down on his mat with him and his attendants.

After this first interview frequent visits were made by the natives, chiefly for the purpose of trading in skins, corals, and other articles.

The village where Granganameo resided was situated on the island of Roanoke, about twenty miles from the place of their first landing. Thither captain Amydas, with seven of his companions, went on a visit, and were hospitably entertained by the wife of that chief, who was himself absent.

The town consisted of eight or nine houses, built of cedar, and enclosed by a slender palisade. The attention of the wife of Granganameo

ed by a passage in one of Barlow's letters to sir Walter Raleigh, preserved by Hackluyt, and also by the accounts of subsequent voyages.

to the English is worthy of remark. It shows, that hospitality is not confined to civilized nations, and that the rudeness of the savage may be mingled with the noblest traits of humanity. She ordered the boat of the English to be drawn on shore that it might not be injured by the surge. When dinner was ready she invited her guests into a room, where they were presented with venison, fish and homony or boiled corn.\* How fearless soever the natives might be of the designs of the English, all suspicion was not yet removed from the breasts of the latter. Observing some of the Indians

\* Hominy or homoni, as the word is spelt by Stith and others, is too generally known in Virginia to need a description; but the origin of the word is involved in obscurity. Whether it be an Indian word or a corruption in civilized language I am unable to decide, nor shall I trouble myself much to inquire. Bozman derives it from the French omelet, as he writes it; but there is no such word in the French language. The orthography being omelette at once destroys the resemblance of sound which in omelet or omelé as it is pronounced, would warrant his conclusion.

approach with their bows and arrows, they seized their arms and put themselves in a posture of defence. The wife of Granganameo on this occasion endeavoured to remove their fears by commanding those implements of war to be taken from the Indians, whose vain or thoughtless parade had excited alarm. In the evening they returned to their boat, and lay at some distance from the shore, for fear of some hostility from the natives during the night.

The discoveries of the English during their stay on these coasts were very limited. They penetrated but a few leagues from the place of their first landing, and gained from the natives but little information respecting their country. No trace of this coast having ever been visited by any civilized people was discovered. Nothing but a confused account of a vessel having been wrecked on their shores about thirty years before, was obtained from the natives.

About the middle of September our adventurers returned to England, carrying with them two of the natives, Manteo and Wanchese, who

showed a willingness to visit the land of the English.

This discovery produced so much satisfaction to queen Elizabeth, that she named the country Virginia, in honour, as has been supposed, of her own virginity.\*

Sir Richard Grenville with seven ships sailed from Plymouth in the following year (1585), for Virginia. With him returned Manteo, whose knowledge of his native country and the language of the Indians, rendered him of singular service to the English both as a guide and interpreter. Under his guidance they visited several towns and made various excursions through the country. During their stay at one of the

\* Others say the name was given by sir Walter Raleigh himself. "A cause de la repugnance que la reine avoit pour le mariage, il (Raleigh) l'appela en son honneur, *Virginia*."

*Recher. sur les Etats Unis.*

The errors of this author however, are too numerous to allow much weight to his authority. The above sentence was founded on the mistaken opinion, that sir Walter Raleigh visited Virginia in person.



towns called Akascogock,\* an Indian stole from the company a silver cup. This trivial offence brought destruction on their town, which was reduced to ashes by their merciless invaders.

Grenville after this sailed for Hatteras, leaving about a hundred men at Roanoke under the command of Ralph Lane. During his stay at Hatteras he received a visit from Grangana-meo, whose friendship and services the English had much cause to remember. He soon after sailed for England, where he arrived on the 18th of September, with a Spanish prize, taken on his way.†

\* Called by some Scroton. See Bozman's Maryland, p. 75.

† Burk's Virginia.

## CHAPTER II.

**BEFORE** we proceed in our colonial history, it may be proper to give some account of the inhabitants of this newly discovered country. Their history becomes so much blended with that of the colony, as to make an inquiry into their situation and population at this time an object worthy the attention of the reader. Our limits will confine us, however, to a few general observations.

According to the account of captain John Smith, that part of Virginia that lies between the sea and the mountains was inhabited by forty-three different tribes of Indians. Thirty of these were united in a grand confederacy under the emperor Powhatan. The dominions of this mighty chief, who was long the most powerful rival, and most implacable foe, with whom the English had to contend, extended over that part of the country that lies south of

the Potowmack betwixt the coast and the falls of the rivers.

In comparison with civilized countries this extensive territory contained but a scanty population. The Powhatan confederacy consisted of but about eight thousand inhabitants, which is less than a twentieth of its present population.

Besides this confederacy, there were two others which were combined against that of Powhatan. These were the Mannahoacks and Manakins; the former of whom, consisting of eight tribes, occupied the country lying between Rappahannock and York rivers; and the latter, consisting of five tribes, was settled between York and James rivers above the falls. Besides these, were the Nottoways, the Meherricks, the Tuteloes, and several other scattering and independent tribes.

The hereditary dominions of Powhatan lay on James river which originally bore his name.\* He had a seat on this river about a mile below

\* Powhatan, Arrowhattock, Appamattock, Pamunkey, Youghtanund and Mattapoment, descended to him from his ancestors.

the falls, where Richmond now stands, and another at Werowocomoco on the north side of York river, within the present county of Gloucester.\*

This monarch was remarkable for the strength and vigour of his body, as well as for the energies of his mind. He possessed great skill in intrigue and great courage in battle. His equanimity in the career of victory, was only equalled by his fortitude in the hour of adversity. If he had many vices incident to the savage life, he had some virtues seldom found among the civilized. He commanded a respect rarely paid by savages to their werowance, and maintained a dignity and splendour worthy the monarch of thirty nations. He was constantly attended by a guard of forty warriors, and during the night a sentry regularly watched his palace. Though unlimited by custom in the number of his wives, his seraglio exhibited the apathy of the Indian character. When he slept one of his women sat at his head and

\* See Trumbull's History of the United States, chapter first, and Jefferson's Notes.



another at his feet. When he dined they attended him with water, or brought him a bunch of feathers to wipe his hands. His regalia, free from the glitter of art, showed only the simple royalty of the savage. He wore a robe composed of skins, and sat on a throne spread with mats and decked with pearls and with beads. The furniture of his palace, like the qualities of his mind, was adapted to war, and the implements of death rather than of pleasure garnished his halls.

The small number of the natives compared with their extent of territory, may to some be a matter of wonder. It is however a circumstance inseparable from savage life, where the checks to population are numerous and powerful. Amongst uncivilized nations the means of subsistence are often precarious and always scanty. The labours and hardships of the women, and the constant and destructive wars of the men, equally tend to retard the progress of population.

When the first settlement of Europeans was made in Virginia, it is probable the whole

number of Indians did not amount to twenty thousand.\* The wants and even the superfluities of civilized life tend equally to condense and increase the mass of society. Arts and manufactures, trade and commerce, strengthen its bonds and promote its population. But to savages who support themselves by hunting, whose places of abode are the forest and the wilderness, the multiplication of their species is rather an inconvenience than a blessing, as it lessens the public stock and divides the means of subsistence.

The Indians of Virginia were generally well formed, and something above the European stature. Smith, in his *History of Virginia*, represents some of the tribes, particularly the Susquehannocks, as approaching to the gigantic. He describes one of their chiefs, the calf of whose leg, he says, measured three quarters of a yard in circumference. Their complexion in infancy is white, but in riper age it becomes a

\* Trumbull estimates their population at sixteen thousand. See his *History of the United States*, page 33.

copper brown. Their hair is straight, long, and dark. In their moral disposition they are generally cunning and deceitful, and always revengeful and cruel. Such was the state and character of the people whom the English found scattered over the wilds and forests of America.

The colony left at Roanoke made some attempts to explore the interior of the country. They penetrated on the north as far as the Chesapeake nation of Indians, who were situated on what is now called Elizabeth river, and to Secotan\* on the south. Towards the northwest they discovered the Chowhanocks, who dwelt about the junction of the Meherrin and Nottoway rivers. The chief of this tribe amused the English with an account of a copper mine and pearl fishery, and a marvellous description of the source of the Roanoke, which he said gushed from a rock on the borders of a great ocean. The credulous adventurers supposing this to be the south sea

\* Secotan was an Indian town situated between the Neus and Pamptico, about eighty miles distant from Roanoke.

hoped soon to find a short route to South America. With a view also of finding rich mines they ascended the river in their boats until want of provisions compelled them to return. About this time they met with a real loss in the death of Granganameo, whose friendship to the English had been constant and sincere.

Many of the Indian chiefs, who had heard of the arrival of the English, began to testify their friendship by presents and by visiting the colony, accompanied by numbers of their subjects. The king of the island however, whose name was Wingina, did not imitate the example of Granganameo and other friendly natives. When the English arrived in his country he was confined by wounds which he had received in battle. He had no sooner recovered than he began to plot the ruin of the invaders. For this purpose he issued secret orders to his warriors to assemble and attack the colony. The plot fortunately for the English was discovered, and Wingina and a number of his men were drawn into ambush and slain.

During this year, (1585) sir Francis Drake, who had been cruising in the West Indies against the Spaniards, visited the infant colony in Virginia, and supplied them with such articles as their wants required. He gave them a ship also, to enable them, in case their situation made it necessary, to return to England. Before he left the coast of Virginia there happened a violent storm, which drove their vessel from its anchorage, and so alarmed the colonists that they determined to abandon their settlement. They sailed with Drake for England, where they arrived in July 1586.\*

\* See Burk's Virginia, vol. I.



### CHAPTER III.

A FEW days after the departure of Lane and his companions for England, sir Richard Grenville arrived with three ships, and provisions for the colony. Finding none of the colonists, they suspected that they had been exterminated by the Indians. Their fears were removed by the information of Manteo, from whom they learned that their countrymen had returned to England with sir Francis Drake. Sir Richard Grenville concluded to leave fifty men at Roanoke, and having supplied them with provisions for two years, he returned to England.

The following year John White with three ships sailed for Virginia. He was appointed governor of the colony with the assistance of twelve counsellors. On their arrival at Cape Hatteras, they despatched a party in search of the fifty men left at Roanoke by Grenville. They found their houses abandoned, their fort

destroyed, and no sign of recent habitation, except the bones of a man on the place where the fort had stood. Twenty men under the guidance of Manteo were then sent to Croatan\* to gain, if possible, some information respecting the colony. They there understood that in a quarrel betwixt Wingina's people and the English, one of the latter had been slain, and that they had soon after abandoned the settlement.

On the 13th of August Manteo underwent the ceremony of baptism, and for his friendship to the English was honoured with the title of lord of Dessamonpeake.† White soon afterwards returned to England, leaving one hundred persons on one of the islands adjacent to Hatteras.

In the year 1589 sir Walter Raleigh assigned to Thomas Smith and others his patent, with a donation of one hundred pounds for the

\* Croatan was an Indian town situated near Ocracock inlet on Core Bank.

† Dessamonpeake—a tribe of Indians were so called.

propagation of Christianity in Virginia. The projects of Raleigh for the discovery and settlement of Virginia had been attended with much expense and many disappointments. To the enterprise of this illustrious but unfortunate nobleman, however, we may be proud to trace our origin. Sir Walter Raleigh was equally distinguished as a soldier, a statesman, and a scholar. During the reign of queen Elizabeth he was among the first courtiers in the kingdom, no less honoured for his talents than beloved for his virtues and admired for his accomplishments. He early excited the enmity of the Spanish Court by his active enterprises against that nation both in Europe and America. On the accession of James I. he lost his interest at court, and was tried and condemned for a conspiracy against the king. He was however reprieved, and was employed afterwards in the public service of his monarch. The sentence of death was still suspended over his head, and was at last executed to appease the wrath of his enemies. He suffered in the sixty-sixth year of his age. His talents and

his virtues merited a better fate, and his name, however it may have been traduced by his enemies, deserves a place amongst those whose actions have been the theme of other nations and whose misfortunes have been the disgrace of their own.

John White again sailed for Virginia in the year 1590, with three ships supplied with provisions for the colony. They came to anchor on the 15th of August, and the first object of their search was the men that had been left on the island near Hatteras. They fired a cannon to announce their arrival, and although they discovered smoke at the place where the colony had been left, they found no person. Observing on a post the word *Croatan*, in large letters, they weighed anchor for that place, but meeting with disastrous fortune, they changed their course and steered for the West Indies, neglecting the welfare of the colony to preserve their own.

A succession of unfortunate voyages began to damp the spirit of discovery, which was not again revived until the year 1606.

Bartholomew Gosnold, an enterprizing navigator, obtained letters patent from James the First, who had succeeded Elizabeth on the throne of England, by which that tract of country from thirty-four to forty-five degrees of north latitude was divided into southern and northern colonies of Virginia, and persons appointed as a council for both divisions. About this time the celebrated adventurer John Smith arrived in London, decked with the laurels of military adventure and heroic achievement. To him Gosnold made known his projects, and engaged him to enter into the spirit of the enterprise. As Smith is to act a conspicuous part in the colonial history of Virginia, it may be amusing to the reader to have a sketch of his life previous to his adventures in America. He was born at Willoughby in England in the year 1579. He early discovered a romantic turn of mind, which at the age of fifteen he endeavoured to gratify by embarking for France in the train of a young nobleman. After visiting Paris, he travelled into the low countries, where he learned the art of war. At the age of



seventeen he entered into the train of a Frenchman, who persuaded him to accompany him to France. They arrived at St. Valory during the night, where, with the connivance of the master of the vessel, the trunks of Smith were carried on shore and plundered by the Frenchman, who made his escape before the landing of our adventurer. When Smith came on shore, he found himself deprived of his baggage, and deserted by his companion. He afterwards embarked at Marseilles for Italy, in company with a number of pilgrims. On their passage there arose a violent storm, which the pilgrims imputed to their having a heretic on board. They were at length induced by their superstitious fears to throw Smith into the sea, in order to calm its waves. He swam to land, which fortunately was at no great distance, and was next day taken on board a ship which was going to Egypt. After coasting the Levant he was at length set on shore with a box of one thousand chequins, which enabled him to pursue his travels. His roving disposition carried him into Stiria, where he was introduced to lord Eber-

spaught and baron Kizel. The emperor being then at war with the Turks, Smith entered his army as a volunteer. When Eberspaught was besieged in Olimpack by the Turkish army, and cut off from all means of intelligence, he obtained relief by means of a telegraph constructed by Smith. Information was given of their design to attack the Turks on the east quarter, and advising Eberspaught at what time to make a sally. The Turks were defeated, and the enterprise of Smith was rewarded with the command of a troop of horse.

At the siege of Rigal the Ottomans sent a challenge to the Transylvanian army, announcing the offer of the lord Turbisha to fight any captain of the christian troops. Thirty of the bravest captains being selected, they chose by lot one of that number to fight the Turkish hero. The lot fell upon Smith, who cheerfully accepted the challenge. He met his antagonist on horseback, and soon bore away his head in the presence of both armies. He immediately received and accepted a challenge from another

Turkish lord, who shared the fate of the former.

Smith, in his turn, sent an offer to the enemy, which was accepted by Bonamalgro. This Turk unhorsed Smith and had nearly gained the victory, but fortune at length declared for the English captain, and enabled him to add to the glory of his former victories the head of Bonamalgro. For these exploits he was honoured with a grand military procession, in which three 'Turks' heads borne on the points of lances, graced their march. In addition to these honours, his general, the lord Moyzes, presented him with a horse richly caparisoned, a sword and belt worth three hundred ducats, and a commission of major in his regiment.

Some time after this the Transylvanian army was defeated, and Smith being wounded in the battle, lay among the slain. He was taken prisoner by the enemy, and after being cured of his wounds he was sold to the bashaw Bogul, who sent him as a present to his mistress Tragabigzanda at Constantinople. This lady be-

came captivated with the fine appearance and heroic character of her prisoner, but fearing he might be ill-treated by Bogul on his return, she sent him for safety to her brother the bashaw of Nailbraitz on the borders of the sea of Asoph. This transfer proved a very unfortunate one for our adventurer, who exchanged the amatory smiles of his mistress for the oppressive commands of an unfeeling master. Within an hour after his arrival he was drest in haircloth, and sent, with his head shaved and an iron collar about his neck, to work among the slaves of the bashaw. In this hopeless situation his services were rewarded only by severe blows and repeated indignities, to which his proud spirit could not long submit. One day, while he was threshing in the field, his master began to beat him in his usual rigorous and brutal manner. Smith, unable to bear the treatment of his tyrant any longer, raised his flail and beat out his brains. Then hiding his body in the straw, he filled a bag with grain, and set off on his master's horse through the inhospitable deserts of Russia. After travelling

through the wilds for sixteen days, he at length arrived at a Russian garrison on the river Don, where he was kindly received. He afterwards visited France, Spain, Germany, and Morocco, and returned at last to England.\* Such is the history of the man whom Gosnold engaged to accompany him to America. His adventures in the western world remain yet to be told. They will be equally amusing to the reader, and as they more directly belong to our subject, they shall be more minutely related, as they occur in the course of our history.

\* See an account of his life in Stith's History of Virginia.



#### CHAPTER IV.

ON the 19th of December 1606, Gosnold sailed from Blackwall with two ships, under the command of captain Christopher Newport. In this voyage captain Smith, whose active mind had already excited the envy of the other adventurers, was arrested on a charge of aiming at usurping the power vested in the council, and kept in confinement during the rest of the voyage. On the 26th of April 1607 they entered the bay of Chesapeake, and gave to the two points of land which formed its entrance, the names of the king's two sons, Charles and Henry.\*

On opening their orders, which had been delivered them in a sealed box, it appeared that Bartholomew Gosnold, John Smith, Ed-

\* Henry was then prince of Wales; Charles was afterwards king of England, to wit, the first of that name.

ward Maria Wingfield, Christopher Newport, John Martin, John Ratcliffe and George Kendall, were appointed a council for the colony. Having elected Wingfield president, they entered on their minutes their reasons for excluding Smith from a participation in the duties of the council.

The first river they entered was called by the natives Powhatan, but by the English was honoured with the name of their own sovereign. While in search of a place of settlement, they met with some Indians who invited them to their town Kichotan, which stood where Hampton now stands, and regaled them with tobacco and a dance.\* In their passage up the river, they met with another party of the natives, whose chief, with a bow and arrows in one hand and a pipe with tobacco in the other, demanded the cause of their coming.

On the 13th of May they landed at a place to which they gave the name of Jamestown. At this memorable spot the first permanent

\* See Smith's History of Virginia.

settlement was made in Virginia. The Indians who inhabited the adjacent country appeared friendly, and their chief Paspaha sent the English a present of venison, and offered them as much land as they should want.

Captain Newport, accompanied by captain John Smith, who was released from confinement though not absolved from the charge of treason, ascended the river with only twenty men, as high as the falls. During this excursion they made their first visit to the seat of the emperor Powhatan. The town where this monarch of so many nations then resided, stood about two miles below where Richmond now stands, and consisted of about a dozen of houses.\*

The first appearance of the natives was calculated to inspire confidence in the English; but the traits of the Indian character were not yet fully unfolded. A little farther acquaintance seemed necessary to put the English on their guard against that hostile spirit which lurked

\* The site of the town is now part of a farm belonging to Mr. William Mayo.

under the mask of friendship. An opportunity offered in the absence of Smith and Newport of estimating the faith and attachment of the natives. The colony at Jamestown was attacked by a party of Indians, who killed one and wounded seventeen of the English. This attack showed them the necessity of union among themselves, and more vigilance towards their enemies.

Hitherto they had been distracted by domestic feuds, the constant companions of popular and incongruous bodies. They were now compelled to think of their mutual defence. A fort which had been constructed since their arrival was strengthened by a palisade, and mounted with five pieces of cannon.

Captain Smith, who had strenuously demanded a trial, at length succeeded in his wishes, against the machinations of his enemies. He was acquitted of the charges against him, and consequently admitted to his seat in the council.

On the 22d of June 1607, Newport returned to England, leaving in Virginia one hundred

and four persons, with but a scanty stock of provisions. Owing to the scarcity or bad quality of their food, and no doubt in part to the climate, which now when meliorated by the cultivation of the soil is not of the most salubrious kind, about fifty of those that remained at Jamestown died within a month after the departure of Newport. The survivors lived during the summer chiefly on crabs and sturgeon.

During this time of famine and distress, the president Wingfield was charged with feasting on the provisions belonging to the colony, and other improper conduct. What might have been the degree of his guilt it is not worth our time to inquire. It is sufficient to observe, that the council dismissed him from his office, and elected John Ratcliffe in his room.

The adventurous mind of Smith, which could not be restrained by the love of ease nor the fear of danger, led him into various parts of the country, and enabled him to make important discoveries. In one of these excursions he discovered the people of Chickahomony. In another he procured a quantity of



corn, as a ransom for an idol which he had taken from the Kickotan Indians. He made another voyage up the river, with a design of exploring the source of the Chickahomony. After ascending as far as possible in a boat, he proceeded in a canoe, accompanied by only two Englishmen and two Indians. The rest of his party, who were left to guard the boat, were attacked soon after his departure by the famous Opechancanough, whose treacherous and implacable hostility is indelibly recorded in the annals of our country. This wily chief, with a number of his subjects, having discovered from one of the English whom he had taken prisoner, the route of captain Smith, pursued him without delay up the river. They surprised his companions asleep, and after killing them, soon overtook Smith, whom after a long and obstinate resistance they took prisoner. During the fight he killed three of his assailants with his musket, and would have made good his retreat to the canoe, had not the loss of blood from his wounds deprived him of strength, and compelled him to surrender to an enemy who

even in the moment of victory trembled at his prowess.

They carried him prisoner to Orapaxe, a town situated on the upper part of Chickahomony swamp. On their arrival at that place they were surrounded by the women and children, whose war songs, accompanied by frantic gestures and savage ceremonies, formed a novel spectacle to captain Smith. He was afterwards confined in a log house under a guard of about forty Indians. The capture of Smith induced the enemy to think of an attack upon Jamestown. In order the better to succeed in this attempt, they endeavoured to attach him to their interests, by offering him a large tract of land and a number of beautiful women if he would assist them in their project. However strong these motives might appear, they were not sufficient, if we may credit his own account, to draw him from the line of his duty, or shake the firm foundation of his patriotism. He so magnified the difficulties of the enterprise to their view, as to induce them to relinquish the project.

They afterwards conducted Smith through different towns under the dominion of Opechancanough, and at last brought him to the seat of the emperor Powhatan at Werowocomoco. This place was situated on the north side of York river, within the present limits of Gloucester county. When captain Smith appeared in the presence of this venerable old monarch, he found him dressed in skins, and surrounded by his chiefs and counsellors. It did not require a long consultation to determine the fate of the captive. He was sentenced to die, and the emperor himself undertook the office of executioner.

The head of Smith was laid on a large stone, and Powhatan being provided with a club, was aiming a fatal blow, when the intercession of his daughter, the princess Pocahontas, averted the stroke. She placed herself betwixt the instrument of death and the prisoner, whose head she clasped in her arms to shield it from the vengeance of her father. Whether this intervention of Pocahontas be imputed to generous sorrow, or the softer sympathies of the

mind, I leave to others to determine. It is certain that it succeeded in softening the rigour of the monarch, and releasing the prisoner from destruction. He was set at liberty and allowed to return to Jamestown, where he safely arrived after an absence of about seven weeks.

The colony about this time was much in want of provisions, but was relieved by the return of captain Newport from England, after a tedious voyage, in which he had been compelled by stress of weather to stop at the West Indies. He brought with him one hundred and twenty adventurers, with a supply of provisions and a number of presents for the emperor Powhatan. Not long after his arrival he made a visit to this monarch, for the purpose of delivering his presents and bartering for such articles as might be of service to the colony. He also paid his respects to Opechancanough, and returned to Jamestown which had been consumed by fire in his absence.

The hope of finding gold on the shores, or in the recesses of Virginia, was not yet entirely abandoned, notwithstanding it had hither-

to been rewarded only by chagrin and disappointment. Newport, possessing the cupidity of his countrymen, made an attempt to discover those imaginary treasures, with more care, but as little success as others. He shortly afterwards returned to England, accompanied by the late president, Wingfield.

Captain Nelson, who had sailed from England with Newport, but on account of the damage sustained at sea, had remained longer in the West Indies, arrived in Virginia in the year 1608, with a seasonable supply of provisions.

Captain Smith, anxious to make new discoveries, undertook a voyage up the Chesapeake bay, with a design to explore the mouths of the large rivers that empty into it. His attention was particularly arrested by the great width of the Potowmack, and the beauty and verdure of its banks. In sailing up this river he found his movements closely watched by the natives. A large body of them lay in ambush on the bank, but were frightened and dispersed by the firing of a few muskets. He



was afterwards wounded, at the mouth of the Rappahannock, by a fish called the stingray, and his life being thought in danger, he was induced to return to Jamestown.

Ratcliffe, whose conduct was not more correct than that of his predecessor, became equally unpopular. He was dismissed from office, and the vacancy filled by the appointment of Capt. John Smith as his successor. This active and enterprising man, however, could not be confined to the dull pursuits of domestic life or colonial government. A few days after his appointment to the presidency, he set off on a second voyage to the Chesapeake, during which expedition he visited the Susquehannocks, Manahocks, Nansemonds, Chesapeakes and other Indian tribes, and returned in September to Jamestown, after a voyage of near three thousand miles in an open boat.

## CHAPTER V.

ABOUT the beginning of the year 1609, captain Newport again returned to Virginia, bringing with him two females, Mrs. Forrest and Anne Burras, her maid, the first European women that had arrived in the colony.

Newport was required by his commission to discover the South Sea, or one of the lost company of sir Walter Raleigh, or a lump of gold. Without the attainment of one of which objects he was not allowed to return to England.

A short time after his arrival in Virginia he went to see the emperor Powhatan, accompanied by a guard of fifty men. He had brought with him from England several costly presents for that monarch, and among others a crown, the value of which the savage chief did not seem to appreciate. The condition on which this ensign of royalty was to be bestowed, was homage to the crown of England, a price that

was easily paid, and which was accompanied by an offer, equally valuable to the English, of his old mockasins and mantle.

Newport, after an ineffectual attempt to obtain from Powhatan a guide for the purpose of exploring the country of the Manakins, proceeded thither without such help, accompanied by about one hundred men. The hope of realizing those golden dreams which had so often proved illusory, was no doubt a principal cause of this expedition, which like those undertaken with the same views, was attended with the same success. After a fatiguing journey they returned to Jamestown, without having added much to their treasures.

During this year was celebrated betwixt Anne Burras and John Laydon the first marriage that is recorded in Virginia.

The scarcity of provisions that prevailed in the colony induced captain Smith to undertake another expedition among the Indian tribes, during which he discovered the Appamattox nation. He seldom failed of procuring for the colony corn or some other article of provision,

of which they were often in want, and he was not very scrupulous about the manner in which he procured it. After his return from this expedition he received and accepted an invitation from Powhatan to visit him at Werowocomoco.

During his stay at the imperial court, various plans were laid by the monarch to entrap the English, and by Smith to procure a supply of corn for the colony. The vigilance of the latter, aided by the unwavering friendship of Pocahontas, preserved them from the wiles and stratagems of the savage chief. This amiable princess, whose sylvan virtues were untarnished by the manners of courts and the false delicacy of civilized life, gave frequent instances of her attachment to the English. While her father was meditating an attack under cover of the night, she found her way to their camp and informed them of their danger.

Captain Smith afterwards made a visit to Pamunkey. During his stay at this place he was attacked by several hundred Indians, under the command of Opechancanough. During the en-

gagement he seized the chief and led him prisoner in the midst of his own warriors, who instantly laid down their arms. He obtained a supply of corn, as a ransom for his royal captive, whom he consequently delivered up to his people. A few days after this, captain Smith was attacked, as he travelled through the woods alone, by the king of Paspahy, a man of gigantic stature. After a long contest the chief was overcome by the prowess of Smith, who led him prisoner to Jamestown.

By a new charter, dated May 1609, the powers of the president and council were transferred to a company in London, to whom was intrusted the appointment of officers, civil and military, for the colony. The company, soon after their incorporation, appointed lord De la War captain general of Virginia, sir Thomas Gates lieutenant general, sir George Somers admiral, and captain Newport vice admiral.

Towards the latter end of May, Gates, Somers, and Newport sailed for Virginia, with nine ships plentifully supplied with provisions, and containing a number of passengers. The ad-



miral's ship was unfortunately wrecked in sight of Bermudas, but the rest of the fleet, with the exception of a bark that foundered at sea, got safe to Virginia. Gates and Somers arrived in two barks which they had constructed with much trouble and difficulty in Bermudas. They found the colony in the most deplorable situation. Captain Smith, tired of the quarrels and jealousies of his countrymen, and anxious to visit his native land, sailed for England, no more to visit the shores of Virginia. After his departure the Indians, no longer restrained by the terror of his name, broke out into open hostilities. Martin and West, who had been stationed, the former at Nansemond and the latter at the falls of James river, with upwards of a hundred men each, were driven from their posts, and compelled to take refuge in the settlement, after losing their boats and a number of their men. Ratcliffe, with a party of about thirty men, were surprised and cut off by Powhatan. Famine, the frequent attendant on war, increased the catalogue of colonial miseries, and rendered the existence of the colony pre-

carious. From five hundred, the inhabitants were in a short time reduced to sixty, when the arrival of Gates and Somers shed a beam of joy over the gloomy prospects of Virginia.

These however, had not the means of affording substantial relief, and being discouraged by the dismal aspect of affairs, they resolved, with the miserable residue of the colony, to abandon their settlements and return to England. They accordingly embarked, and had proceeded down the river some distance, when they were met by lord De la War, and brought back to Jamestown.

It was in June 1610 that lord De la War arrived in Virginia. After landing his men, he read to the colony his commission appointing him their captain general for life. He did not however remain long in a country that offered rewards only to patient industry, and in a climate that seemed destructive to the constitution of Europeans. After building two forts, and making some successful incursions against the Indians, he returned in a debilitated state of body to England. On his departure the

colony was left under the direction of George Percy, who had been appointed successor to captain Smith in the presidency.

On the 10th of May 1611, arrived sir T. Dale with three ships, and a good supply of provisions for the colony. Hitherto little attention had been given to the improvement of Jamestown, which continued in a state of infancy without exhibiting marks of enterprise, and scarcely of ordinary industry. Captain Smith had indeed turned his attention to the improvement of the little metropolis of Virginia, but his roving disposition would not allow him leisure to carry his plans into execution. As the improvement of Jamestown was so much neglected, it can scarcely be thought that the establishment of new towns would be an object of attention.

The first undertaking of Dale, however, was the establishment of a town, the ruins of which are still visible at Tuckahoe in Henrico county. It contained three streets of framed houses, with a good church, besides storehouses, watch-

houses, &c., and was defended by a palisade and several forts.

Dale afterwards took the town of the Appamattox Indians, and annexing to it as a corporation the plantations of Rocksdale hundred, Shirley hundred, and Upper and Lower hundred, he gave to them the name of New Bermudas, and conferred on them some valuable privileges.

Dale was succeeded in the government by sir T. Gates, who arrived in Virginia in the month of August 1611. During this year captain Argall made an expedition to the Potowmack Indians, where, by the treachery of Japauzas, king of that nation, he got the princess Pocahontas into his hands. This rich prize was carried in triumph to Jamestown, where she soon after won the heart of a Mr. Rolfe, whose tender addresses awoke a reciprocal attachment. The consent of Powhatan to the marriage of his daughter with an alien and an enemy was not easily obtained. His difficulties however were at length overcome, and the

marriage betwixt Mr. Rolfe and the princess was celebrated in presence of her two brothers.

In the year 1613 sir T. Gates returned to Europe, and the government, on his departure, devolved once more on Dale. During the administration of this gentleman, an expedition was set on foot against the French and Dutch settlements on the bay of Fundy and the Hudson. The forts being unprepared for defence, surrendered without resistance.

In the year 1616 sir T. Dale returned to England, accompanied by Pocahontas and her husband Rolfe, with several Indians of both sexes. On the departure of Dale the government devolved on captain George Yeardly. Soon after his accession, he marched against the Chickahomnies, whom he defeated in battle, and compelled to yield at least a temporary submission to the English.

The arrival of Pocahontas excited much curiosity in England, while the wonders of the metropolis were no less calculated to awake her own. Having at length satisfied her eyes with beholding the works of men in a civilized



state of society, she retired with her husband to Brentford. Here she was unexpectedly visited by her old acquaintance captain Smith. It appears, however, that the attention and gratitude of this hero to his benefactress was not as great as she seemed to wish, and was entitled to expect. She died soon after at Gravesend, while she was preparing to return to her native shores. She left behind her an only son, who on the departure of his father for Virginia was intrusted to the care of his uncle Henry Rolfe of London. This youth afterwards became a respectable citizen of Virginia, and his posterity are not unworthy of their royal ancestry. He left at his death a daughter, who was married to colonel Robert Bolling, from whom are descended many reputable families. Thus while the government of Powhatan has crumbled into dust under the arms of European invaders, the imperial blood has flowed into new channels, and infused its virtues into the veins of those who tread on the ruins of his empire.

Powhatan died soon after he received the news of the death of his beloved Pocahontas.

The character of this monarch, while ennobled by all the virtues which seem to characterize the savage life, is also marked with some of its vices. Courage in battle and fortitude in adversity, mingled with treachery and cunning in their domestic intercourse, form the grand lineaments of the Indian character. We must not however exclude from the list of their virtues the warm fidelity of the friend, and the tender sympathies of the parent. These are not the effects of civilization nor the production of enlightened reason alone. The sentiments of the heart, like the features of the face or the members of the body may be distorted by the trammels of education as well as marred by the ferocity of passion, but they are engraven too deep to be erased by either. Civilization seems in some instances to have refined the manners of mankind at the expense of their virtues and their happiness. War, in its present form, in the garb of honour and regulated by the law of nations, is accompanied by a destruction of the human race greater than that which marks the progress of savage arms. The right of exter-

mination, often claimed by nations at war, is less excusable than that ferocity which hurries the savage from his native woods against the enemy of his nation. All that was noble, all that was brave, and all that was good in the Indian character, belonged to Powhatan. His name was known and revered among the American tribes from the ocean to the lakes; and by the English his skill in intrigue and his valour in war were not to be despised.

Sir George Yeardley having been appointed governor, arrived in Virginia in the year 1619. During this year six new members were added to the council, and one hundred disorderly persons were sent over as servants to the colonists. These unwelcome visitors were followed by a more agreeable cargo of a hundred unmarried females, designed to soften the labours of life, by mingling with them its conjugal joys.

In the following year a Dutch ship, with a cargo of negroes, arrived on the coast of Virginia, and commenced that detestable commerce that has entailed disgrace upon our national character.

About this time (1621) the hostilities of the natives began to be attended by more serious consequences than the settlers of Virginia had seemed to expect. Opechancanough, if not the most powerful, was at least the most inveterate enemy that they had encountered since their arrival. His enmity grew with the colony, and he seemed to think that his own security depended on its entire destruction. This he had planned in his own mind, and the time at length arrived when the plan was to be put in execution with the same skill with which it had been devised. This plot was laid with the deepest cunning, and matured by the most profound dissimulation. The wily chief, while he endeavoured to inflame the enmity of the Indians against the colonists, tried no less to blind the watchfulness and lull the suspicions of the colonists against the Indians. While the planters, secure in this specious appearance of friendship, were beginning to taste the blessings of affluence and the pleasures of society, the enemy was aiming a blow no less fatal than unexpected. The Indians were drawn together

with a secrecy, and the attack made with a precision and celerity scarcely to be found in the movements of civilized armies.

On the morning of the 22d of May, 1622, the Indians, under cover of thick woods, approached the plantations of the English. In order to render their attack more unsuspected, those of the colonists who were found straggling from their homes were suffered to pass unmolested, after receiving from Opechanca-nough many marks of attention. About twelve o'clock the whoop of battle was heard, and the Indians in different parties, bursting from the woods and thickets, carried death through the defenceless settlements of the English. In less than an hour about three hundred and fifty men, women and children fell victims to the vengeance of the remorseless savages. The friendly discovery made by a converted Indian, in the service of one of the colonists, apprizing them of their danger, saved a part of the colony from ruin. The information was received in time to put Jamestown and the adjoining plantations in a posture of defence.



By this fatal stroke the number of the plantations was reduced from about eighty to only six; to wit, Paspaha, Shirley hundred, Flower de hundred, Kickotan, Jamestown and Southampton. Industry and business of every kind seemed to wither under the loss of colonial blood, and the dreary prospect of war and desolation. The recent attack was too fatal to admit of immediate retaliation, and too wanton and cruel to be easily forgotten. During the succeeding year several expeditions were set on foot against the enemy, and were generally attended with success. The towns of the natives were burnt and their corn destroyed, while the slaughter of men, women and children showed a spirit of revenge that did not well correspond with a claim to civilization.

In the year 1624 the London Company, to which had been confided the direction of affairs in Virginia, was dissolved, and the powers vested in it by charter reverted to the crown. A provisional government was immediately formed, consisting of a governor and eleven counsellors. Sir Francis Wyatt, who had been com-

missioned governor in the year 1621, was continued in office, but having obtained leave to visit Ireland, sir George Yeardley was appointed to fill the vacancy made by his absence.

The colony had been much harassed for some time by the Indians, and an expedition was again undertaken and directed principally against Opitchapan, whose warriors dwelt on the Pamunky. The Indians were defeated in a battle and a number of them slain. The English destroyed their huts and provisions, and returned, setting fire on their way to the long grass and underwood that served to conceal the approach of the enemy.

On the death of sir George Yeardley, in the year 1627, the council elected captain F. West to fill the vacancy. During the succeeding year, above one thousand emigrants from Europe arrived in Virginia. This great accession to the population of the colony serves to show the estimation in which the new settlements were held in Europe, and the inducements that colonial prosperity must at this time have afforded to adventurers.

About this time also arrived lord Baltimore, a Roman catholick nobleman, who had previously settled in Newfoundland, but was attracted to Virginia by the fame of its growing prosperity. As the settlement of catholicks in Virginia had been prohibited by the colonial charters, the assembly thought proper to tender to his lordship the oaths of allegiance and supremacy. These oaths he refused to take, preferring an exile from the blessings of colonial protection and favour to base subjection to the unreasonable restraints imposed by government.

Lord Baltimore was fortunate enough however to obtain a grant of a large territory on the north east corner of Virginia, which was settled in the reign of queen Mary, and in honour of that princess was called Maryland.

Meanwhile the Indians continued their incursions, and the Pamunkies and Chickahomnies in particular, made frequent attacks on the colony, marking their course with terror and devastation, the constant attendants on Indian warfare. Many of the English were carried

off prisoners, and made the victims of remorseless cruelty or implacable revenge.

Captain F. West, in the year 1628, was succeeded in the government by John Pott, during whose administration the colonial assembly was twice convened, and many regulations made for the defence of the colony.

Pott was succeeded, in the year 1629, by sir John Hervey, a man of an arbitrary and ambitious mind. His administration, however, was attended with some advantages to the colony and marked by some attention to public interest. The establishment of a court at Jamestown, to meet twice a month, in which the members of the council were to preside in turn; the erection of a fort at Point Comfort, and the encouragement given to the establishment of salt works in Accomack, were among the wise measures of this administration. Some parts of the governor's conduct however, excited much discontent among the people; and the assembly which met during his administration showed the apprehensions they entertained from his tyranny, by the re-

strictions they imposed on his prerogative. They forbade by law the imposition of any tax without the consent of the assembly. They likewise prohibited the raising of troops without their order, unwilling to admit in the representative of the crown a power not claimed by the crown itself. In the year 1635 Hervey was, for his rapacity and tyranny, suspended from his office, and captain F. West appointed in his room. But as the former had been appointed by royal commission, the assembly deemed it necessary to exhibit articles of impeachment against him, and for this purpose they appointed commissioners to visit the court of England, for the purpose of preferring the accusation. The commissioners were received with coldness by Charles, and their accusations against Hervey dismissed with but little regard. This odious man was reinstated, and continued in office till the year 1639, when he was succeeded by sir Francis Wyatt. The term of Wyatt's administration was short, for in the year 1641, it appears that sir William Berkeley became governor of the colony.



About this time the Indians, under the command of Opechancanough, made an irruption into the colony, marking their course, as usual, with slaughter and dismay. This massacre, like the former conducted by the same chief, had nigh proved fatal to the colony. The loss was estimated at about five hundred persons, the greater part of whom were slain about the heads of the rivers; particularly York and Pamunky, where Opechancanough commanded in person. The militia were immediately armed, and the colony put in a posture of defence. A body composed of every twentieth man, and commanded by sir William Berkeley in person, marched against the enemy to revenge the murders so recently perpetrated on their countrymen.

Little is now known, nor is it very important to know much of the events of this war. It is only necessary to observe, that hostilities were brought to a close by the capture and death of Opechancanough. This chief, who was now grown old, but who still appeared at the head of his warriors, was at last surprised by a

party of the English, and carried in triumph to Jamestown. The hoary monarch showed no signs of fear while in the hands of his enemies, but supported in captivity that majestic deportment and contempt for pain that distinguished his more prosperous years. He was cruelly murdered by one of his guards, whose recollection of injuries sustained by the hand of the chief probably prompted the bloody deed.

The dissolution of the Powhatan confederacy followed the death of Opechancanough, and a general peace succeeded to the horrors of war.

In the year 1644 sir William Berkeley returned to England, and during his absence of about twelve months Richard Kempe officiated as governor.

About this time commenced in England the civil war, betwixt Charles the First and his parliament. During this struggle, which proved so unfortunate for the monarch, Virginia adhered to the royal cause.

The parliament, after the establishment of their power, despatched a fleet with a body of

land forces to reduce the colony. This armament arrived in the Chesapeake, in the year 1651, under the command of sir G. Aiskew, who summoned the colony to surrender to the commonwealth. Virginia at this time contained a population of nearly twenty thousand persons, and was able to bring into the field a force neither contemptible as to numbers nor valour. She had also at her head a man of loyalty and courage, who had not neglected to prepare for any attack that might be made. Several Dutch ships, then lying at Jamestown, were mounted with cannon and arrayed in defence of the colony.

When the forces of the commonwealth arrived at Jamestown they were surprised to find their summons rejected, and preparations made for a vigorous defence. Terms were however proposed, for the settlement of matters without appeal to arms, and agreed to by the colonists, who without relinquishing any of their former privileges transferred their allegiance from the king to the commonwealth. In consequence of this change, it became necessary to appoint a

provisional government until the regular appointments could be made by the council of state in England. Accordingly, in the year 1652, an assembly was convened at Jamestown, when Richard Bennet was chosen governor, and a council consisting of thirteen members elected to assist in the administration.

## CHAPTER VI.

THE hostility of the Indians, although suspended by the death of Opechancanough, was far from being entirely extinguished. The Rappahannocks first began to make inroads, destroying as they proceeded the property and lives of the colonists. To repel these aggressions an expedition was set on foot in the year 1654 against that nation, and a body of troops under the command of general Carter marched to the Rappahannock towns. Little however is known of the events that occurred in that expedition, although it is supposed that the Indians of this tribe were destroyed or driven from their homes, as the name of Rappahannock, in the following year, appears on the list of counties.

Bennet was succeeded by Edward Digges, during whose administration a body of six or



seven hundred Indians, having removed from the mountains and settled about the falls of James river, began to excite the attention of the government. The assembly, who were at this time in session, despatched a company of about one hundred men under the command of captain Hill, for the purpose of repelling the invaders. In this attempt Hill was defeated, and Totopotomoi, king of the Pamunkies, whom he had engaged to assist him, with a number of his warriors were killed.

The affairs of Virginia at this period afford little worthy of record. The royal government was re-established in the mother country, and the colony in Virginia felt much joy at the restoration, notwithstanding their recent submission to the commonwealth.

The assembly testified their satisfaction by many expressions of attachment to a throne which they had lately abjured, and from which they had not always received the most conciliating treatment.

During the short administration of Samuel

Matthews nothing of importance can be found to relate.\*

In the year 1659 the assembly elected sir William Berkeley governor of Virginia, and accompanied his commission with a body of instructions, and permission to return to England. During his absence in England, Francis Moryson, by the appointment of the council, acted as governor.

The spirit of persecution which reigned so long in Europe began at length to show itself in America. The quakers, a sect in whose opinions and practice it is difficult to find any thing offensive to public peace or injurious to social happiness, became the subjects of malevolent censure and intemperate zeal. If their tenets appear whimsical to some and unreasonable to others, their innocence of life and simplicity of manners might silence the cen-

\* During the existence of the commonwealth, the governors of the colony were elected by the assembly, and not appointed by the government in England, as stated by Robertson and others.

sure or soften the severity of their enemies. Persecution, however, seldom finds its victims among the disturbers of the human race; the weak and the friendless, those who are struggling with adversity or emerging from the weakness of infancy, are often the objects of intolerance and fury. The quakers in Virginia were excluded from the rights of citizens, and exposed to the arbitrary control of the magistrate. In the assembly of the year 1663, one of that sect was expelled from his seat in the house, to which he had been elected by the inhabitants of Norfolk county.

About this time a conspiracy against the government of the colony was formed, and when nearly ripe for execution was discovered by the vigilance of the governor, and the conspirators executed. The assembly, which convened a few days after the disclosure of the plot, expressed their gratitude by appointing the 13th of September, the day on which the conspiracy was to be carried into execution, a day of thanksgiving.

Charles II. with a generosity which cost him

nothing, and from which he gained but little credit, bestowed upon his favourites large tracts of land in Virginia, some of which grants included the plantations of actual settlers, and proved the source of much trouble and embarrassment. The assembly, after remonstrating against the injustice and impolicy of the grants, appointed four gentlemen to go to England to act as agents for the colony in this affair. In the event of this mission proving ineffectual, it was resolved to purchase those grants from the patentees. The commissioners exerted themselves for the interests of the colony, but the rebellion, which broke out in Virginia about this time, rendered their zeal and fidelity abortive.

During the year 1667 an expedition was set on foot for exploring the western parts of Virginia. Captain Batte was appointed by the governor to the command of this party, which consisted of about an equal number of whites and Indians. In seven days after their departure from Appamattox, they arrived at the foot of those lofty mountains which ignorant cre-

dulity had hitherto pronounced impassable. According to the accounts given by Beverley, the first ridge of mountains they reached was neither high nor difficult to surmount; but after crossing this, their march was obstructed by others that seemed to reach to the clouds. In these transmontane regions they discovered numerous flocks of deer, elks, buffaloes and other animals feeding on the luxuriant herbage which the rich valleys and lofty hills presented to their view. These explorers continued their course westward, until they saw, to use their own language, the waters "running backwards," or taking a different course from those which empty into the Atlantic ocean.

The accounts brought by Batte and his company, of the beauty and fertility of this country, induced sir W. Berkeley to undertake an expedition in person; but his plans were disconcerted by the rebellion above alluded to, the circumstances of which we are now going to detail.

The discontents that had long existed in the bosom of the colony, began at length to wear



a more serious aspect, and to threaten direful consequences. Those who imagined their rights and privileges abridged, by restrictions on commerce, united themselves with disaffected emigrants, whose misguided zeal for liberty had been repressed in England only to break out with greater violence in the colony. The incursions of the Indians, and the rumors of a plot for a general massacre, gave a pretext for popular commotion and military preparation. So great an alarm was excited by groundless rumors and inflammatory reports, that the people flew to arms, and prepared for defence or aggression, as their fears or ambition might dictate. Blending their fears of Indian hostility with their domestic and civil grievances, they excited the passions of the populace as well by their dread of extermination as by their horror of oppression.

No serious danger, however, could at this time be justly apprehended from the incursions of the natives. Their strength was broken by the dissolution of the Powhatan confederacy, and the population of Virginia was sufficient

to repel the attacks of their most powerful tribes. But their proximity, and known hostility, afforded to the disaffected a pretext for arming without law and without authority, while a deadly enmity to the measures of government was the principal cause of their movements.

The insurgents chose for their leader, Nathaniel Bacon, a young man of enterprise and talents, who had been educated in England. The first object of this aspiring man was to inflame the minds of the populace by portraying the grievances they had suffered from the interruption of their trade, and from the arbitrary measures of their rulers. Being possessed of a lively and impressive elocution he did not fail to employ it on those topics which had excited murmurs among the colonists. He also published a paper setting forth the numerous causes of discontent since the restoration, and the motives that induced them to take up arms on this occasion. Having collected a body of about six hundred men, he directed his course towards the Indian settlements, where alone he

was likely to meet with an enemy who would give him a chance of acquiring the fame of military prowess. Before his departure he had sent a messenger to the governor, sir William Berkeley, requesting a commission, that he might have the sanction of government as well as the voice of the populace on his side. The governor, instead of granting his request, with a firmness that does honour to his memory, published a proclamation commanding Bacon and his followers to disperse, under penalty of being proclaimed traitors. Not relying, however, on mere proclamations, the governor determined on more effective measures. Having raised a force to aid the constituted authorities, he marched in pursuit of the insurgents, and proceeded as far as the falls of James river, when he was alarmed with the news of another insurrection at Jamestown. He immediately hastened back to the defence of the metropolis, and of the little remaining power in his hands. On his arrival he found that a body of men from the lower and middle counties, headed by two men, Ingram and Walklate,

had usurped the government, and were now too strong to be resisted. In this dilemma the governor, finding opposition hopeless, thought proper to accomodate matters with the rebels, by yielding at present to their demands. They required the dissolution of the assembly, which was granted, and writs issued for a new election. The spirit of disaffection became at last so general, that the friends to order were outvoted in the succeeding election, and the governor had the mortification to find in the assembly a majority opposed to his measures.

In the mean time Bacon had raised his popularity by a successful attack on the Indian settlements, in which he had made a number of prisoners. He was returning, swelled with the importance of his victory, when he received the news of the revolution at Jamestown. He immediately left the army, and proceeded down the river accompanied by a small detachment. There were at this time several English ships lying in the river, by one of which Bacon was intercepted and carried prisoner to Jamestown. The fame of his

victory, however, had given such force to the current of public favour, that the governor found it necessary to release him, and after giving his parole, he was admitted to a seat in the council. The spirit of rebellion, far from having subsided, acquired new strength from the mildness of opposition. No art was left untried to pervert the judgment and excite the passions of the people.

Bacon having again put himself at the head of his troops, determined to march to Jamestown. After travelling all night he arrived early next day at that place, and having drawn up his men in front of the state house, while the assembly were sitting, he found it an easy matter to bring them into his measures. A deputation was sent from that body to the governor, advising him to accede to the wishes of the people, as the only means of restoring peace and order to the colony. Finding the assembly carried off in the torrent of disaffection that had overspread the land, sir William Berkeley deemed it vain any longer to oppose the rage for reform that existed in the minds



of the people. He therefore signed an act of general indemnity, and granted a commission of general to Bacon, whom he had lately proclaimed a traitor. It is certain, however, that this change in sir William Berkeley's conduct was owing to the influence of the assembly, which was under a panic from the force of the insurgents, rather than to any fear inspired by the arms of the latter. He therefore dissolved the assembly, and having received an invitation from the inhabitants of Gloucester county to take up his residence among them, he left Jamestown, and once more raised the standard of government in the colony.

Bacon had set out on a new expedition to the frontiers, when he heard of the proclamation of the governor, again declaring him a traitor. He instantly changed his course, and marched with all speed towards Gloucester. The governor finding his force too small to meet the insurgents in the field, thought proper to retire with a few of his friends to Accomack. Bacon now placed himself at the head of civil and military affairs; and under pretence

that sir William Berkeley had abdicated the chair of government, he called a convention, for the purpose of settling a provisional government until the pleasure of his majesty should be made known. The convention accordingly met at Middle Plantation on the 3d of August 1676, and proceeded to declare the government vacant by the voluntary abdication of sir William Berkeley. They also declared the power of the people to supply the vacancy until the pleasure of the king should be known. Writs were afterwards issued, signed by Bacon and four others, members of the council, for calling an assembly. Having procured something like the sanction of civil authority to his illegal usurpations, this ambitious man once more set off at the head of his soldiers against the Indians. After destroying the towns of Pamunky, Chickahomony and Matapony, he directed his course towards the falls of James river, where the enemy were uniting their forces to give him battle. At a place that has been since called Bloody-run an engagement took place in which the In-

dians were defeated with considerable loss. Their main body was posted on an eminence, and defended by a palisaded fort, through which the English broke with a fury which the savages could not resist. By these attacks of the insurgent army the power of the Indians in this quarter was broken with but little loss to the colony.

The insurgents, not contented with the triumph so lately gained over their governor, determined to surprise him at Accomack. For this purpose a number of armed men, with one Giles Bland at their head, privately embarked in two or three small vessels and proceeded towards that place. The intention of Bland had fortunately been conveyed to sir William Berkeley by a captain Larimore, whose vessel had been pressed into the service. In consequence of this information, twenty-six men under the guidance of Larimore embarked at midnight in some boats, and by a sudden and bold attack made themselves masters of the whole naval force of the enemy. This fortunate adventure gave to the affairs

of sir William Berkeley a brighter aspect, and put into his hands the naval empire of Virginia. He was able soon after to raise a force of about six hundred men, with which he marched to Jamestown and reinstated himself in the government. The insurgents were now on their return from the frontiers, when hearing of the counter-revolution at Jamestown they hastened their march and arrived before that place just as the sun was setting. They immediately proceeded to form a kind of intrenchment to defend them from the attacks of the loyalists, and having completed their works about midnight retired to rest. They were not allowed long repose. The governor with all his force, which wanted in discipline and valour what it was superior in numbers, marched out to attack the insurgents. He was beaten back with the loss of several of his men killed in the engagement. The loyalists embarked next night on board their vessels, taking with them whatever was most valuable; and dropping down the river, came to anchor out of reach of the batteries on the island. Finding that their

enemies had evacuated the town, Bacon and his followers entered in triumph, but were much disappointed on discovering that their parsimonious opponents had left them nothing to plunder. The enraged conquerors immediately set the houses on fire, and reduced the infant metropolis of Virginia to ashes.

Bacon found himself once more at the helm of affairs in the colony, and thinking himself placed above the power of the loyalists, he dismissed his followers, and retired to his former residence at Middle Plantation. Death soon after closed the career of this restless demagogue, and left his seditious partisans without a leader.\*

\* Note No. I. Appendix.



## CHAPTER VII.

THE death of their leader had broken the strength of the insurgents, and the sad reverses of fortune had taught the loyalists not to rely on her smiles. Both parties appeared tired of the contest, and disposed to close hostilities by an amicable adjustment. Commissioners were accordingly appointed to meet at West Point, for the purpose of settling all differences betwixt them. Terms equally agreeable to both, consisting of a general indemnity on the part of the government and submission on that of the insurgents, were settled without difficulty.

Sir William Berkeley has been charged with violating the promise of general pardon, and accused of treating the rebels after his restoration with great severity. It is stated that a number of the insurgents suffered death under the sentence of martial law, and many were confined in gaols by the severity of legal process.

So great was the rigour of punishment that some were preparing to leave the colony, when the aspect of affairs was fortunately changed by the arrival of commissioners from England, with power to examine and redress the grievances of the colony. They brought with them a regiment of regulars, for the purpose of suppressing rebellion and restoring peace and order to the community. The disturbances had already ceased among the people, but the rigour of the governor against the insurgents still continued.

The conduct of sir William Berkeley at this time does not well accord with his general character, which had not hitherto been marked by either duplicity or cruelty. His resentment however was so great, that he refused to publish an act of general indemnity brought over by the commissioners. This general pardon included all who would submit to the government, with the exception of Bacon alone, who was now beyond the reach of human justice. Finding the governor inflexible, the commissioners proceeded to open their court for hear-

ing and determining grievances. The joy that diffused itself through the colony, when the nature of their commission was known, was equal to the gloom that pervaded the public mind before their arrival. The assembly, which met about this time, concurred with the commissioners, and even remonstrated against the conduct of the governor. Soon afterwards sir William Berkeley sailed for England, leaving the affairs of government in the hands of Herbert Jeffries, as lieutenant governor, whose appointment is dated 11th November 1676.

The colony having been for some time free from the inroads of the Indians, began at length to be alarmed by the frequent incursions of the Six Nations. This confederacy of savage tribes was very extensive. The terror of their arms was felt from the Carolinas to New England, and as far as the Mississippi on the west. Both French and English were anxious to procure their friendship, and fearful to provoke their vengeance. Fortunately, for the peace of the colony, a treaty was formed with this powerful coalition. The terms were settled at

Middle Plantation, where deputies from the several tribes met those of Virginia. By the death of Jeffries in 1678, the government devolved on sir H. Chicherly, who in 1680 was succeeded by lord Culpeper. This nobleman brought with him several new laws, which the king had thought proper to recommend to the general assembly. He also published an act of general indemnity for all offences committed during the rebellion. The prudent administration of Culpeper entitled him to the friendship of the colony, which could not have been better expressed than by making an addition of one thousand pounds to his salary.

On the departure of this nobleman for England, the government once more devolved upon sir H. Chicherly. The affairs of Virginia exhibit nothing worthy the attention of the historian, until the arrival of lord Howard, who was appointed in the year 1684 to administer the government of the colony. During his administration the Indians of the Six Nations renewed their depredations on the frontiers of Virginia, and those tribes who continued in alliance with

the colonists suffered equally from their incursions.

The governor had the good fortune to stop their inroads, by a treaty which he concluded with the chiefs of those warlike nations, at Albany. On his return from this place, he sent a body of militia to the head of the Chesapeake bay against a nation of Indians, who had attacked the frontiers in his absence.

During the year 1684, died Charles II., a monarch neither famed for the wisdom of his public, nor the virtues of his private life. During his exile at the court of France, he acquired habits of licentiousness and debauchery which he brought with him, and rendered fashionable in his native land. He was succeeded in the throne of England by James the Second, who, as well as his predecessor, had been forced to seek in France an asylum from the rage of his enemies.

At the restoration James had been declared admiral of England, and in the year 1665 he obtained a celebrated victory over Opdam, the Dutch admiral. James however, did not carry



with him to the throne those virtues which had distinguished him while duke of York. He was a bigoted and selfish monarch, and seemed to have lost that courage which had marked his early life. As soon as his appointment was known in Virginia, the governor and council made a humble address to his majesty, congratulating him on his accession to the throne, and tendering their lives and fortunes in his defence whenever he should demand them. The spirit of discontent however which began to rise in England soon found its way into her colonies.

The governor in order to check these seditious appearances, published a proclamation forbidding all inflammatory discourses, and factions tending to disturb the peace of government. Several persons were also apprehended and brought before the council for treasonable proceedings. The dread of popery, so strong in the mother country, operated also on the minds of the colonists. The discontents on this side the ocean almost kept pace with those in England.

At length the unfortunate monarch, finding the popular current too strong to be resisted, with a timidity that perhaps saved him from the fate of his father, resolved to abdicate his throne.

When this event was known in Virginia, and it was formally announced that William and Mary were recognised as sovereigns by the British nation, a general joy was diffused amongst the colonists. The council, who had so lately pledged their lives and fortunes in defence of James, naturally felt some embarrassment on the occasion. Their hatred to the catholic religion, however, which was not diminished by their security from its influence, overcame every obstacle, and, a few months after the accession of William and Mary was made known, they were publicly proclaimed in Virginia.

In the year 1689 sir Francis Nicholson was appointed governor in the absence of Howard who returned to England. It was during the administration of Nicholson, that the establishment of a post office was first proposed; and a

subscription for a college was also set on foot and patronized by the governor and council. For this institution two thousand five hundred pounds were obtained, and a charter was soon after procured from the king, accompanied by a donation of about two thousand pounds sterling, due on account of quitrents, twenty thousand acres of land, and the revenue arising from the penny per pound on tobacco exported from Virginia and Maryland to the other plantations.\*

In the year 1692 Nicholson was removed from the chair of government, to make room

\* The college by its charter was under the direction of twenty visitors, who were its legislators, and was also allowed a representative in the general assembly. It had a professorship of the Latin and Greek languages, one of mathematics, one of moral philosophy, and two of divinity. After the revolution the language and divinity professorships were changed for those of law and medicine. The late bishop Madison proffered his aid in procuring information relative to the literature and literary institutions of Virginia, but his death deprived me of the pleasure of receiving his communications.

for sir Edmund Andros, a flatterer and favourite of kings, but an oppressor of the people. This man had been formerly governor of New York. He afterwards received from king James a commission for the government of New England, where he imitated the conduct of his royal master in bigotry and oppression. At length the indignation of the people could no longer be repressed, and they determined on resistance. On a report that a massacre was intended by the governor's guards, the people of Boston took up arms, and surrounding the palace, seized the governor and about fifty of his coadjutors, and placed them in confinement. Sir Edmund was carried to England for trial, but instead of meeting with the punishments which his crimes had deserved, he was honoured with the appointment of governor of Virginia.

On his arrival in Virginia writs were issued for a new election of burgesses, and several proclamations were published relative to the general interests of the colony. From the character given by Beverley of sir Edmund An-

dros, we must conclude that he had been much reformed by his transportation to England. He is represented by this historian as a liberal and enlightened man, of a mild deportment, and a great encourager of industry and manufactures.\* He was succeeded by sir F. Nicholson, who was again appointed to the government of Virginia, and continued in office until the year 1705, when he was recalled and Edward Nott appointed in his room. There is nothing worthy of notice during the administration of Nott, or that of his successor Edmund Jennings.

The administration of Alexander Spotswood, which commenced in the year 1710, opens a wider and more interesting prospect to the historian. This gentleman, with an enlightened and enterprising mind, united in himself the accomplishments of the statesman and the soldier. Soon after his appointment he determined on exploring the country west of that great range of mountains which seemed to prescribe limits to his predecessors. This undertaking

\* Note II. Appendix.



was accomplished, and the passage of the mountains effected without much difficulty. The splendor of the achievement far overbalanced the dangers of its execution.

About this time the encroachments of the French, on the north western waters, induced the governor to propose to the British ministry the establishment of a company, to settle such lands on the Ohio as they might be able to procure from the natives. He likewise proposed the establishment of a chain of forts from the Lakes to the Mississippi, by which the encroachments of the French might be restrained, and the fur trade might be secured to the English. The ministry did not however enter into his views, and it was not till after the treaty of Aix la Chapelle that his plans were revived and adopted by the British government.

Spotswood was equally unsuccessful in another application which he made to the government, requiring that the men employed under him in exploring the country should be paid for their services. However reasonable might be his request, it seemed to make him more

unpopular with the ministry, and was soon after followed by his dismissal from office.

The enterprising talents and inflexible virtues of governor Spotswood might have been highly useful to the interests of Britain in America, at a time when her ancient European rival, France, was endeavouring to wrest from her hands the trade and riches of the new world. The former, with her possessions on the sea coast and country adjacent, beheld with a jealous eye the progress of her enemy on the St. Lawrence and the Lakes. The latter claimed the country west of the Alleghany, on the ground of her being the first who explored it. The English claims, founded on the charters of their monarchs, were much more extensive, and seemed to be as boundless as their ambition itself. They thought themselves entitled to the whole country, as far as the South Sea; and although they were compelled to recede from the extravagance of this claim, yet the encroachments of both France and Spain seemed to indicate the necessity of strong and effective resistance. The antipathy which pre-

vailed betwixt those nations in Europe, seemed to extend its influence to their remotest colonies; and peace, so seldom enjoyed at home, was scarcely to be expected to continue on this side the ocean. Accordingly, in the year 1739, hostilities commenced against Spain, and soon after against France. In the commencement of this war the late governor Spotswood was again called into public service, and honoured with the command of the colonial troops. But he did not live to enjoy the returning smiles of royal favour.

Spotswood had been succeeded in the government by sir Hugh Drysdale, who arrived in Virginia in the year 1723, and during whose administration nothing occurred worthy of record.

Drysdale was succeeded in office by Gooch, soon after whose accession an expedition was set on foot against Carthagera. In this unsuccessful attempt Gooch, who had been formerly an officer in the British service, commanded the colonial troops.

About this time (1742) considerable alarm

was excited in Virginia, by the news of a skirmish betwixt a party of Shawanese and a detachment of militia. In this engagement the Virginians lost a captain M'Dowell, and several men. The governor, with the advice of the council, adopted such measures as might prevent aggression from the same quarter. A supply of ammunition was sent to the frontiers, and commissioners appointed to visit the Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting peace.

In the year 1743 the college of Virginia lost her first president, the Rev. James Blair. This learned and eminent divine was born and educated in Scotland, but on account of the unsettled state of religion in that kingdom, he passed over to England near the end of the reign of Charles the Second. He sailed for Virginia as a missionary, in the year 1685, and soon after his arrival was appointed to the highest honours the church could offer in the colony. The establishment of a college in Williamsburg, was in part owing to his exertions, and its subsequent prosperity was much indebted to his zeal in its behalf. In the year

1691 he sailed for England, to procure a charter and the pecuniary aid of government, and his mission was attended with the desired success. Blair was named in the charter as the first president, in which office he continued fifty-one years. He was also ecclesiastical commissary and member of the council about the same number of years.

The vacancy in the council occasioned by the death of Mr. Blair, was filled by the appointment of William Fairfax, son of the proprietor of the northern neck.

By the death of colonel William Byrd, the colony was deprived of another valuable citizen, as well as member of the council. His extensive education and ample fortune threw a lustre round the virtues of his private life. His death was a serious loss to Virginia.

In the year 1746 the public buildings in Williamsburg were destroyed by fire, supposed to be the work of some incendiary. In consequence of the destruction of the capitol, the next assembly, agreeably to summons, met in the college. It may be proper to notice here,



a proclamation of the governor, forbidding the meetings of Moravians, Newlights and Methodists, under severe penalties. Enjoying, as we do now, the blessings of a free government, and feeling the influence of principles, the offspring of the revolution, we look back with astonishment, almost with incredulity, on the bigotry and intolerance which so lately influenced the councils of Virginia.\*

\* There is one sect, the Quakers, to whom the blessings of liberty seem to be mingled with the alloy of intolerance and persecution. The free exercise of their religion is restrained by civil policy, or prohibited by legal sanctions. They are required to conform to the institutions of man by violating the commandments of God. The arguments in favour of this rigid policy go to the destruction of religious liberty, by making the human legislator the judge of our religion, and the arbiter of our conscience. Its advocates say, that in the present state of the world, means of defence against the aggression of enemies are as necessary and as just as are the means to prevent disease or hunger, or any other evil that might obstruct the enjoyment of life; and if it be just that government resist and repel the attacks of

About this time a bill was brought forward, and passed in the house of burgesses, for the removal of the seat of government to some more central part of the colony. The governor and council, some of whom possessed property in Williamsburg, refused their assent to a measure which threatened to injure their private interests. The matter was again brought for-

enemies, it is equally just that all who enjoy the benefits of this protection should contribute to its support.

But is it not a painful reflection to a republican, enjoying the blessings of liberty, to think that they are so unequally diffused; and that so large a portion of our population should be exposed to the penalties of the law, because they refuse to dip their steel in human blood. It will not much relieve our feelings to recollect that this infringement of liberty of conscience falls on a sect whose innocence almost precludes the necessity of law, and whose meekness might inspire compassion.

The Abbe Raynal, speaking of the Quakers, says, "*La fière simplicité de ces nouveaux enthousiastes qui benissoient le ciel et les hommes au milieu des tourmens et de l'ignominiê, inspira de la veneration pour leurs personnes, fit aimer leurs sentimens et multiplia leurs prosélytes.*"

ward in the year 1748, but met with no better success than before. During this year the towns of Petersburg and Blandford were established by law, and acts of assembly passed establishing towns in Augusta, King William and Henrico counties.

Among other acts of this session, the assembly ordered a general revisal of the colonial laws, and for this purpose appointed a committee consisting of the following persons, Peyton Randolph, Philip Ludwell, Beverly Whiting, Carter Burwell and Benjamin Waller.

Gooch, who had been governor of Virginia for upwards of twenty years, at length resolved on visiting his native country. Before his departure he was waited upon by the president and council with an address of thanks for his able and upright administration. His correct and uniform conduct had indeed procured him the esteem of the Virginians generally, and his departure was sincerely regretted.

The administration now devolved upon Ro-

binson, as president of the council, and at his death, which happened soon after, Thomas Lee, who had succeeded him in the presidency, was advanced to the chair of government.

## CHAPTER VIII.

**H**ITHERTO the genius of the colonists had been repressed by the labours they had to undergo, and the difficulties they had to surmount. The western horizon at length began to brighten, and arts and manufactures, literature and commerce, seemed to excite attention, and gradually to extend their influence in Virginia. New characters also appeared on the stage of action, some of whom were to act a distinguished part in the military and civil affairs of the colony. This epoch commences with the administration of governor Dinwiddie, who arrived in Virginia in the year 1752.

Peace, however, was not yet secured to the colony, but the hostility of her neighbours served to call into action the latent powers she possessed. The encroachments of the French in the north west, and particularly the establishment of a fort at Au Beuf, first brought



into public notice George Washington, whose name has so distinguished a place in the annals of his country. He was scarcely in his nineteenth year, when he was despatched by governor Dinwiddie, with a message to the French commandant on the Ohio. He accomplished his journey through an unknown wilderness, and executed with faithfulness the trust committed to his hands.

The French officer transmitted the governor's letter to the commanding officer in Canada, and returned for answer that he would wait the orders of his superior. This answer was probably viewed in the light of a denial by the government of Virginia, as she began to make provision for expelling the French by force. For this purpose a regiment of three hundred men was raised, and placed under the command of colonel Fry, who was assisted by George Washington as lieutenant colonel. The French expecting an attack from this quarter, did not neglect the proper means of defence. They endeavoured to secure the friendship of the Indians, as well as to exasperate them

against the English. They also strengthened their posts by reinforcements from Canada, and proceeded to destroy the English forts and trading houses before they could be relieved by the colonial troops. In the fort at Logstown they found stores and furs to the value of twenty thousand pounds. The fort which had been erected at the junction of the Ohio and Monongahela also fell into their hands.

Before the troops were in readiness to march, Washington was ordered to proceed with two companies as far as the Great Meadows. On his march he received information, from some friendly Indians, that the French were at that moment engaged in erecting a fort at the confluence of the Alleghany and Monongahela rivers, and that a detachment was then on the way from that place to the Great Meadows. Washington, taking the Indians as guides, marched all night without halting, for the purpose of intercepting the party. He succeeded to the utmost of his wishes. Just at dawn of day they descried the French erecting their

tents in a retired valley. A detachment under captain Waggoner was immediately ordered to make a circuit and appear on the opposite side. Both divisions fired on the enemy at the same time. Jumonville, the commander of the party, was killed, and the detachment, with the exception of one man who escaped, were made prisoners.

At length the main body of the troops arrived at the Great Meadows, and being reinforced by two companies of regulars from South Carolina and New York, they proceeded towards fort Du Quesne under the direction of Washington, whose detachment had formed a junction with the main body, and who had succeeded to the command, in consequence of the death of colonel Fry.

Before their departure from the Great Meadows, they erected a stockade for the security of their horses and baggage. They had advanced only to the foot of Laurel Hill, about fourteen miles from the stockade, when they were informed by a party of Indians of the arrival of a reinforcement at fort Du Quesne. A

dislodgement of the French was therefore considered as impracticable, and the party were compelled to return to the stockade, since known by the name of Fort Necessity. They had scarcely put that place in a posture of defence, when they were attacked by a body of about fifteen hundred French and Indians, commanded by Monsieur De Villiers. The attack, which began about ten o'clock in the morning, continued without intermission till night. It was on this occasion, that the illustrious leader of the American armies first showed that cool and determined courage which has marked his military career. His soldiers seemed anxious to imitate his example, and so bold a resistance was made, that the French commandant thought proper to offer terms of capitulation. A flag of truce was sent to Washington, and terms proposed which, however, were deemed dishonourable, and were without hesitation rejected. The firmness of Washington induced the French officer to recede from the rigour of his terms, which were soon after returned to Washington, so modified as to obtain his acceptance.

The provincial troops were allowed to march off with their baggage unmolested. Their loss on this occasion has been stated at about a hundred killed and wounded. The loss of the enemy was supposed to be much greater. The troops were harassed in their retreat by parties of Indians, as well as oppressed by hunger and fatigue. At length they arrived at Winchester, having surmounted incredible difficulties, and undergone unspeakable hardships. Their services were rewarded by the house of burgesses with a vote of thanks, accompanied by what was much more necessary, a donation for the relief of their immediate wants.

The expedition of Washington, although not attended with success, served as a guide to future attempts; and while it showed the difficulty of the enterprise, pointed out the man most fit to achieve it.

We will conclude this chapter with a sketch of the life of this illustrious man, who needs no higher eulogium than a detail of his splendid actions.



GEORGE WASHINGTON was born at Bridges creek, in the county of Westmoreland, Virginia, February 22d, 1732. At the age of ten years he lost his father, Augustine Washington, whose estate, according to the English law, descended to his eldest son, Laurence Washington. At the age of fifteen, George was on the point of entering the British navy as a midshipman. The entreaties of an affectionate mother prevailed on him to abandon the idea. His talents were reserved for a fairer field of glory. Although he early showed a disposition for action rather than speculation, he was not inattentive to the improvement of his mind. He received from a private instructor the general principles of English literature, but the boundaries of his education were much enlarged by his own genius and industry.

Those sciences that are purely speculative occupied but little of his attention, which was more attracted by objects of utility than amusement. Much of his time was devoted to the study of the mathematics, and his knowledge of the art of surveying contributed to the in-

crease of his fortune. In the exercise of his professional duties, as a surveyor, he became acquainted with the value of lands, and gained such information respecting the country which he traversed, as enabled him to make important additions to his landed property.

The estimation in which he was held in Virginia, at the early age of nineteen, is shown by his being appointed an adjutant general at that age, with the rank of major. But the duties of this office lasted only a short time.

His expedition to the Ohio, which followed soon after, has already been noticed. He commenced this arduous expedition on the 31st of October 1753, the day on which he received his commission. Having obtained guides on the frontiers to conduct him through the wilderness, he crossed the Alleghany mountains, and directed his march for the Monongahela. On his arrival at a fort on French creek, he found the commanding officer, to whom a letter of Dinwiddie was addressed. During his return he encountered difficulties, which to a less enterprising mind would have been deemed

insurmountable. Owing to the depth of the snow his horses and attendants were left at the mouth of French creek, from whence he set out on foot accompanied by his guide alone. On their way they were fired at by an Indian, whom they took prisoner but soon after dismissed. On reaching the Monongahela, they were employed nearly a whole day in making a raft to effect their passage. The masses of ice which were then descending the river drove with such violence as to dislodge the passengers. Clinging to the logs of their shattered raft, they were enabled to reach an island, where they passed the night. The cold was so intense, that the hands and feet of his guide were frozen. The next morning they crossed to the main land on the ice.

Washington soon after visited this country at the head of a regiment, to the command of which, as already observed, he had succeeded on the death of colonel Fry. The skill and fortitude displayed in this expedition, particularly in the action at the Great Meadows, reflected much honour on his character. In that engage-

ment he compelled an enemy of nearly four times his own number, to allow him the privilege of marching off, with all his arms and baggage, unmolested.

In the year 1755, Washington accompanied general Braddock to that fatal field where European discipline and valour were overcome by savage cunning and ferocity. In the battle of the Monongahela he showed a fearless front, although he was soon the only aid that remained on the ground. The particulars of this battle shall be related hereafter. At present we will confine our details to the immediate occurrences of Washington's life, without embracing the important events of national history.

After his return from the Monongahela, he was appointed to the command of a regiment designed for the defence of the frontiers. His exertions to protect the back settlements were often fruitless. The impossibility of defending so extensive a frontier against so deceitful an enemy, suggested the propriety of offensive measures. The plan of carrying war into the

enemy's country, was at length adopted. In the expedition against fort Du Quesne, Washington acquired much honour by his patience and courage. His health was considerably impaired by the fatigues of the campaign. On his return he resigned his command of the provincial troops. Soon after his resignation he was married to the widow of Mr. Custis, a young lady possessed of great personal attractions and a handsome estate. In addition to Mount Vernon, which he inherited by the death of his brother, he now possessed a very ample fortune. No farmer was ever more careful or systematic in the cultivation and management of a farm, and few have been more successful. In one year his farms have produced seven thousand bushels of wheat, and ten thousand of corn. He was, during his retirement, elected a member of the state legislature, where his attachment to his country was shown by a steady opposition to every infringement of her rights.

In the year 1774 he became a member of the first congress, and he was honoured with



a place on all the committees of defensive arrangements. In the year 1775 he was elected commander in chief of the army of the United States. He accepted this important office with diffidence, and fulfilled its duties with dignity and fortitude. In that long and arduous contest, which rent from the British empire her most flourishing provinces, Washington was the firmest support of the American cause. When the storm was at the highest, and hope began to forsake his friends, he stood at the helm, unmoved by the roaring of the tempest. The gloomy aspect of affairs served but to give new vigour to a mind whose resources were not easily exhausted. All his plans were formed with coolness and executed with undaunted resolution. In tracing his military career, through fields of blood or martial encampments, we find the same inflexible firmness, and the same unshaken virtue. Equally free from the obsequiousness of a courtier and the ferocity of a conqueror, he preserved the affections of his soldiers without losing the confidence of his rulers. When lord Howe, on

his arrival, addressed a letter to "George Washington, Esquire," on the settlement of their differences, Washington refused to receive it, as it was not addressed to him in his military capacity, and showed a disposition to refuse him the honours his country had bestowed upon him. His conduct was applauded by the government, whose dignity had been insulted in the person of their commander in chief.

While other generals have shone only in the arms of victory, Washington never appeared more worthy of admiration than when flying before a proud and exulting enemy. After the loss of Forts Washington and Lee, when he led his shattered and feeble army into New Jersey before the advancing standard of England, his troops resembled more an offering for the altar of liberty, than the legion to whom were intrusted the sacred interests of their country. Such was their love for their commander, that all their hardships, their wants and distresses, could not sever their union nor diminish their

attachment. It seemed difficult to tell, whether Washington or liberty was the dearest name.

After seeing the independence of his country established, the heroic chief resigned to congress the high office entrusted to his hands; and after an affectionate parting from his companions in arms, he retired to the peaceful walks of private life. He was not, however, allowed long repose. He became, in the year 1787, a member of the convention which formed our constitution, and of that august body he was elected president. In the year 1789 he was unanimously elected the first President of the United States. After serving his country in that exalted station during eight years, or two terms of office, he resolved on retiring from public life. His valedictory address was published in September 1796, and on the 14th December 1799 he closed a life of nearly sixty-eight years.

## CHAPTER IX.

A FEW weeks after the return of the troops from the Great Meadows, some companies that had been expected from the adjacent colonies of Maryland and North Carolina having arrived, governor Dinwiddie, without giving the regiment time to recover from their shattered condition, ordered them to repass the mountains for the purpose of dispossessing the French. As the assembly, however, rose without providing the necessary means for carrying on the war, it was abandoned for the present, and the Virginia regiment was reduced to independent companies.

In the year 1754 orders were received for settling the rank of officers in the colonies, and directing that those commissioned by the king should take rank of those commissioned by the colonial governors. In consequence of this invidious distinction, colonel Washington retired

in disgust from public service. In the following year, however (1755), general Braddock, who had lately arrived from Ireland with two regiments, and had taken the command of the forces in Virginia, prevailed upon him to accompany the army in the capacity of aid-de-camp.

The army set off in the month of April, and proceeded to Will's Creek, afterwards called Fort Cumberland, where they were detained waiting for their baggage until the month of June. Owing to the badness of the roads, the transportation of their baggage presented one of the greatest difficulties they had to encounter. Washington, apprized of this circumstance, had recommended the use of pack horses instead of wagons, and his advice was, after much delay, in part adopted.

Soon after the army left Fort Cumberland, colonel Washington was attacked with a violent fever, from which he did not recover until his arrival at the river Monongahela. It was determined at a council, held at the Little Meadows, that a body of twelve hundred men, under the command of Braddock in person,



should advance without delay against Fort Du Quesne, and that the remainder of the troops, with the heavy baggage, should be left under the command of colonel Dunbar and major Chapman. Even when freed from the most cumbrous part of their baggage, the progress of the army, owing to the nature of the country through which they passed, was extremely slow. They were four days marching from the Little Meadows to the Great Crossings of Yohoghany, a distance of only about nineteen miles. On the 9th of July 1755, the army reached the Monongahela, on the opposite side of which, at the distance of six miles, stood Fort Du Quesne, the place of destination. Unfortunately for the fate of this expedition, the commander felt too secure in his own strength and in the discipline of British regulars. He was equally unacquainted with the country, and with the proper mode of fighting its savage inhabitants. Although sufficiently brave himself, his courage was likely to be of little avail against the enemy with whom he had to contend.

Early in the morning preparations were made for crossing the Monongahela. A select body of three hundred infantry, under the command of colonel Gage, was ordered to cross the river, as an advance guard, for the purpose of covering the passage of the main body. This detachment was followed by another of two hundred, designed to act as a reserve to the other. The main body followed the detachments, maintaining the order of battle. They had advanced but a short distance from the bank of the river, when they were alarmed by a brisk fire, apparently in front and flank of the advance parties. These immediately fell back, and communicated to the main body a panic, from which they could not be recovered. The firing soon became general, and the confusion amongst the British regulars presented to the enemy the prospect of an easy victory.

The French had drawn themselves up in the form of a half circle, in the skirt of a thick wood, which served as a cover for their centre, while the wings were supported by parties of

Indians, who concealing themselves in the long grass, were no less skilful in securing themselves, than dextrous in annoying their enemies.

Braddock had drawn up his men in two lines, with the artillery in the centre; thus presenting a solid front to the fire of the enemy. He appeared in the front of his men, animating them by his example and endeavouring in vain to restore them to order. After having five horses shot under him, and seen two of his aids fall by his side, he at length received a shot and fell from his horse. This proved the signal for a general rout among the regulars, who were preserved from total destruction by the provincial troops. These dispersing themselves in the woods, by a successful fire gave a check to the pursuers, and served as a cover to the flying regiment. The general, by the exertions of colonel Washington and captain Stewart, of his guards, was brought off the ground in a cart. The horses and baggage fell into the hands of the enemy.

The loss of the provincial army on this occasion, amounted to about seven hundred killed

and wounded, among whom were upwards of sixty officers. Much has been said in praise of the Virginia troops in this engagement, and if we estimate their courage by the loss they sustained, it was indeed very great. Out of three companies that were in the engagement, scarcely thirty escaped alive. Captain Peronny and all his officers were killed, and all of the company of captain Poulson, except one, shared the same fate.

It would be superfluous to notice the bravery of Washington on this occasion. His fame is already fixed on a base that cannot be shaken by the revolutions of time. We shall merely observe, that in all the subsequent engagements in which he shone with so much splendour at the head of his army, he in no instance showed more cool and determined bravery than in the battle of the Monongahela. He had three horses shot under him, and several bullet holes were made through his clothes; but Providence designed him for more important fields and more successful warfare.

On the arrival of the army at Dunbar's

camp, it was deemed expedient to destroy all the stores, except what might be wanted for immediate use. Soon after their arrival at this place, the brave commander of the expedition died of his wounds. He was by no means deficient in military skill or personal courage; but he was not apprized of the manner of the attack, nor acquainted with the proper mode of repelling it. British courage and discipline were of little avail in the American woods, and contending with a foe whose success depended more on ambush and surprise than on valour and discipline.

After the defeat of general Braddock the command of the army devolved on colonel Dunbar, who considering any farther offensive measures as impracticable at present, marched his troops to Philadelphia.

The retreat of the army left the whole frontier of Virginia exposed to the ravages of the victorious enemy, who now extended their incursions even over the Blue Ridge, and marked with blood and terror their hostile course.

This distressing state of affairs induced the



governor to call a meeting of the assembly, to provide for the security of the colony. On the meeting of that body, it was determined to raise a regiment of sixteen companies, the command of which, and all the forces in Virginia, was given to colonel Washington. Meanwhile the French and Indians continued their depredations, and news frequently arrived of irruptions along the frontiers. The western inhabitants, instead of uniting and repelling the assailants, abandoned their dwellings, their flocks and their farms to the mercy of the rude invader.

Having made arrangements for the recruiting service, Washington set out in person to visit the western frontier posts. From thence he returned to Williamsburg for the purpose of settling the plan of future operations: on his way he was overtaken by an express, informing him that a body of French and Indians had broken into the back settlements, and were murdering the inhabitants and burning their houses. Washington hastened back to Winchester, and endeavoured to raise a body of

militia to march against the enemy; but his exertions were frustrated by the general terror and confusion that prevailed among the people. Before any adequate force could be raised, the enemy had allayed their fury with blood, and had re-crossed the pathless mountains with their prisoners and their plunder. Washington saw the necessity of training a body of militia for the defence of the colony, but his advice was almost always rejected, or adopted too late.

In the year 1756 lord Loudon arrived in the colony, vested with the command of the British forces in Virginia. A short address was presented to him by the regiment, complimenting him on his arrival, and a statement of the military affairs of the colony, drawn up by Washington, was laid before him. The assembly, which had been recently dissolved, was again summoned to meet, principally for the purpose of devising measures of defence against the repeated attacks of the Indians. A day of fasting and prayer was also appointed by proclamation. Meantime general Montcalm, com-

mander of the French forces in America, did not remain idle during the delays and consultations of the Virginia assembly. Before the troops were ready to march from Virginia, that officer had taken the posts of Oswego and Ontario without opposition. His Indian allies also continued their attacks upon the back settlements with their usual ferocity and success.

In return for these numerous inroads of the savages, it may relieve the mind to see them chastised by the hands of provincial volunteers. Colonel Armstrong, at the head of about three hundred militia, made an excursion into their territory, and after marching several days through woods and swamps, halted on the borders of their town. Having disposed themselves in order, at day break they attacked the Indians, of whom they killed forty and rescued eleven prisoners. This town was situated about twenty-five miles above Fort Du Quesne.

During the year 1757, governor Dinwiddie took leave of the colony and sailed for England. The character of this governor has been assailed by the historians who have recorded

the transactions of his government. They charge him with want of integrity, and with disregard for the interests of the colony. What foundation they had for those charges we are in part left to conjecture, as they have taken much more pains to convince us that they believed him guilty, than they have to show us the grounds of that belief.

After the departure of Dinwiddie, the administration devolved on John Blair, as president of the council, until the arrival of Francis Fauquier, which happened in the following year. Soon after Fauquier's entrance into office, he published a proclamation, by which he continued in office those who had held their places under his predecessor. He also dissolved the assembly, and issued orders for a new election.

Early in this gentleman's administration, the troops designed for the conquest of Du Quesne were put in motion. They amounted to about eight thousand men, and were appointed to rendezvous at Raystown. General Abercrombie, in consequence of the return of lord Loudon

to England, had succeeded to the chief command of the colonial forces; but the department of the middle and southern provinces was committed to general Forbes. This officer, with as many regular troops as could be spared from the northern colonies, commenced his march from Philadelphia in November 1758. Colonel Bouquet\* had been previously dispatched with two thousand men as an advance guard. The troops from Virginia, agreeable to the orders of the commander in chief, marched in detachments from Winchester to Fort Cumberland. From thence they proceeded to Raystown, where the different detachments assembled. From this place the country was covered with woods, mountains, and morasses, which greatly impeded the progress of the army.

\* Henry Bouquet was appointed lieutenant colonel in the British army in 1756. After the expedition against Fort Du Quesne, he was sent from Canada against the Ohio Indians, whom he compelled to sue for peace. He was afterwards promoted to the rank of brigadier general. He died at Pensacola, in February 1766. *Annual Register*.



Colonel Bouquet with his advance guard kept a considerable distance before, for the purpose of scouring the country, and protecting the workmen engaged in opening a road.

Bouquet with his detachment at length reached Loyal Hanna, a post about fifty miles from Raystown. From this place major Grant was despatched with a body of eight hundred men, for the purpose of reconnoitering the country about Fort Du Quesne. This officer reached a hill near the fort during the night, and having posted his men in different columns, he sent forward a party to examine the works and discover the situation of the enemy. He also detached major Lewis with a baggage guard about two miles in his rear; and having made such other arrangements as he deemed necessary, he believed himself secure, and with more parade than prudence ordered the *reveillé* or alarm to be beaten. During all this time silence reigned in the fort, which Grant imputed to the terrors imposed by his appearance. But the calm was a dreadful precursor of a storm, which burst with resistless fury and

unexpected ruin. The moment the Indians and French were ready for the attack, they issued from the fort, spreading death and dismay amongst the provincial troops. As soon as the attack was announced by the firing of guns, major Lewis with his rear-guard advanced to the assistance of Grant, leaving only fifty men under the command of captain Bullet to guard the baggage. Their united forces, however, were unable to withstand the impetuous assault of the savages, whose warwhoop is always a forerunner of havoc and destruction. The fire of the rifle requires coolness and deliberation, whereas the tomahawk and scalping-knife are fitted for sanguinary despatch. No quarter was given by the Indians. Major Grant saved his life only by surrendering to a French officer. In the same way the brave major Lewis escaped, after defending himself against several Indians successively. The two principal officers being now in the hands of the enemy, the rout became general amongst their troops. In their pursuit the Indians exercised every cruelty which savage ferocity could inflict upon the

hapless victims whom the sad fortune of the day delivered into their hands. The situation of the retreating troops at this time must appear truly desperate. They were in an enemy's country, far from any English settlement, as well as from any immediate prospect of succour; routed and dispersed by a bloody and vindictive foe, whose intimate knowledge of the woods and superior agility seemed to threaten a total destruction of the party. Their escape, however, was effected by the prudence and heroism of captain Bullet, of the baggage guard, by a manœuvre no less fortunate for his men than honourable to himself. This officer, immediately on discovering the rout of the troops, despatched on the strongest horses the most necessary part of the baggage, and disposing the remainder on an advantageous part of the road, as a kind of breastwork, he posted his men behind it, and endeavoured not only to rally the fugitives as they came up, but by a well directed fire to check the violence of the pursuers. Finding the enemy growing too strong to be withstood by his feeble force,

he ordered his men according to previous agreement, to reverse their arms and march up in front of their assailants, holding out a signal for capitulation, as if going to surrender. The impatience of the Indians to bathe their tomahawks in English blood, would scarcely allow them to suspend their attacks, while the latter appeared in the act of suing for mercy. The moment they had arrived within about eighty yards of the enemy, Bullet gave the word to fire:—A dreadful volley was instantly poured upon the Indians, and was followed by a furious charge with fixed bayonets. The enemy were unable to resist this bold and unexpected attack, and believing that the army of the English was at hand, they fled with precipitation; nor did they stop until they reached the French regulars. Bullet, instead of pursuing them, wisely retreated towards the main body of the army, collecting in his march the wounded and wandering soldiers, who had escaped from the field of battle without knowing whither to direct their course. In this fatal action about twenty officers and two hundred and

seventy-three private soldiers were either killed or taken prisoners.

The Virginia troops on this occasion behaved with courage, and suffered severely in the action; but the gallant conduct of captain Bullet is almost without a parallel in American history. His situation, after the defeat of Grant, to an officer of less discernment must have appeared desperate. To resist the triumphant savages with a handful of men, would seem madness; and to have fled without any hopes of escape would have been folly. In this dilemma, with scarcely time to deliberate, Bullet adopted the only plan which could preserve himself and his men from the most cruel death or the most distressing captivity.



## CHAPTER X.

THE main body of the army at length reached the camp at Loyal Hanna on the 5th of November 1758. In their march from this post, Washington proceeded in front of the army to superintend the opening of the road. They were much harassed by parties of Indians in their march, and frequent skirmishes took place, in one of which colonel Washington defeated a party of the enemy and took several prisoners. Colonel Mercer, who had been detached to support the party of Washington, came upon them during the night, and supposing them to be Indians, an engagement ensued, in which about fourteen persons were either killed or wounded before their error could be discovered. The army having reached the field of battle, found the ground strewed with the bodies of those who had fallen in Grant's defeat.

They took possession of Fort Du Quesne

without opposition, the French having abandoned it during the night. This fortress, after being repaired and garrisoned, was called Fort Pitt, in honour of the celebrated statesman of that name.

Their attention was then called to the last sad office due to their unfortunate fellow soldiers, who lay unburied in the open field. They collected their mangled carcasses and covered them in one common grave.

After having accomplished the object of the expedition, general Forbes returned to Philadelphia,\* and colonel Washington, who had been elected by the county of Frederick a member of the general assembly, directed his course to Williamsburg.

The capture of Fort Du Quesne, as it was the means of restoring peace to the frontiers, diffused a general joy through the colony. The success of general Forbes induced the ministry

\* The hardships of the campaign had broke the constitution of general Forbes. He died soon after his return to Philadelphia.

to think of extending their conquests, and reducing Canada to the dominion of the British crown. For this purpose in the year 1759 general Amherst, who had succeeded to the chief command, marched in the month of July, at the head of twelve thousand men, for Ticonderoga. On their approach the enemy made a show of defence, but on the 27th of the month they blew up their magazine and retired to Crown Point. They soon afterwards abandoned this post also and retired to Aux Noix. On the 4th of August general Amherst took possession of Crown Point. While he was thus victoriously making his way towards the St. Lawrence, for the purpose of joining general Wolfe at Quebec, general Prideaux, agreeably to the plan of the campaign, had arrived at Niagara, which he immediately invested. He was assisted by sir William Johnson,\* who commanded the New

\* Sir William Johnson was born in Ireland in the year 1714, came to America about 1734, and died in 1774. His son, sir John Johnson, was appointed major general in the same year in which his father died, and governor of Canada in 1796.

York militia and a body of Indians who were friendly to the American cause. This officer, soon after their arrival at this place, succeeded to the chief command, in consequence of the death of general Prideaux, who was killed by the bursting of a colhorn in the trenches. The French, alarmed at the preparations making for the reduction of the important post of Niagara, determined to risk a battle in its defence. A body of French and Indians, amounting to about two thousand, under the command of Monsieur D'Anbry, commenced an attack on the 25th of July. In less than an hour they were thrown into disorder by the fire of the English, who took D'Anbry and sixteen other officers prisoners. The fort was immediately surrendered, and the garrison, which consisted of about six hundred men, was conducted to New York and New England.

Meanwhile general Wolfe had proceeded up the St. Lawrence with a body of eight thousand men, the fleet being commanded by admiral Saunders. Having taken possession of the Isle of Orleans and Point Levi, he prepared for an

attack on the capital of the French dominions in America. The situation of the town presented almost insuperable difficulties to the besiegers. Its elevation above the level of the river, while it enabled the garrison to annoy the fleet below, precluded the possibility of much damage from the latter. Batteries were however erected on the Isle of Orleans and Point Levi, and a heavy cannonade opened on the lower town.\*

The adventurous spirit of general Wolfe at length determined him to scale the precipice, and attack the enemy in their intrenchments. To execute this plan the army embarked in boats and proceeded several miles up the river, above the place where they designed to land. Under cover of the night they dropped silently down again, undiscovered by the sentinels, and landed directly against the Heights of Abraham.

\* The tide, which formerly washed the foot of the rock on which the town is built, has long since receded to a great distance, leaving a considerable tract of ground on which has been built what is called the lower town.



The ascent to the top of the rock was so steep and rugged, that the troops could ascend only by laying hold of the bushes and stumps, and pulling themselves up the precipice. At dawn of day the army of Wolfe was drawn up in good order on the Plains of Abraham. Montcalm immediately drew out his forces and advanced to the attack. The battle was obstinately contested and the slaughter great on both sides, and particularly so among the officers. Victory at length crowned the prowess of the English, who pursued the enemy to the very walls of the town. On the 18th of September 1759, Quebec surrendered to the British crown.

The loss of the English in this battle was about five hundred men, while that of the French has been estimated at three times that number. The commander in chief of each army was mortally wounded. The splendid achievement of Wolfe, which put into the hands of the British the metropolis of the French dominions in America, will ever be remembered with a mixture of regret for the loss of the best of men and the bravest of officers.

General Wolfe early embraced the military profession, and at a very juvenile age distinguished himself at the battle of La Feldt. Under the ministry of the great Chatham his splendid talents were brought into notice, and after distinguishing himself at Louisburg he was appointed to command the army against Quebec. To the vivacity of youth he seemed to unite the wisdom of years; and controlled by the soundness of his judgment the glow of passion and the fire of military genius. The name of Wolfe will descend on the page of history marked with a brilliancy which must long attract the admiration of posterity. His remains were carried to England, and buried with pomp in Westminster Abbey, where a handsome monument has been erected to his memory. His death has given to the celebrated West the subject of a beautiful painting.

Lewis Joseph De Montcalm, marquis of St. Veran, equally unfortunate on this fatal day, was not less distinguished for his talents and his bravery. He was born of a noble family at Candiac in the year 1712, and at an early age

commenced his military career. After commanding with reputation in Italy, Bohemia, and Germany, he was sent to America in the year 1756, when he succeeded Dieskau as commander in chief in Canada. Soon after his arrival he took Oswego, and Fort William Henry, and in the year 1758 he repulsed general Abercrombie with much slaughter from the walls of Ticonderoga. His fall and that of Quebec were equally distressing to his country.

## CHAPTER XI.

WE are now verging on a period when the encroachments of the British government upon the rights of her colonies began to awake in the latter a spirit of opposition and resistance. The laurels won from her rival, by her gallant officers and veteran armies, were doomed to wither beneath the sway of an unwise and obstinate ministry. A succession of measures, as hostile to the liberties as annoying to the feelings of the colonists, began to excite murmurs and discontent, which soon grew to open and avowed opposition.

The first measure that brought fairly to trial the sovereignty of the British parliament, and the degree to which the submission of the colonies would extend, was the passage of the stamp act. The assembly was in session in the

year 1765, when intelligence was received of the passage of this alarming act.

The assembly of Virginia expressed their opinion of this measure in several resolutions, brought forward by Patrick Henry, Esquire, declaratory of the rights of the colonies, and condemning as unconstitutional any attempt to impose on them taxes without their own consent.

On the day in which that odious law was to go into operation, not a sheet of stamped paper was to be found, and every transaction that depended upon it was suspended. A general ferment pervaded the public mind, and petitions, remonstrances and resolutions showed in what direction the tide of popular opinion flowed. This odious law was soon after repealed, but the arbitrary spirit which gave it birth was not so easily extinguished. The repeal was accompanied by a declaratory act, asserting the right of the government to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever. She soon gave a better proof of her right by imposing certain duties on tea, glass, and some other articles imported into the



colonies. This measure, generally denominated the tea act, excited an opposition, if not so general, yet in some places much more violent than that excited by the stamp act.

During the year 1767 died Francis Fauquier, lieutenant governor of Virginia, at the age of sixty-five years. The government devolved on John Blair until the arrival of lord Botetourt, which happened in the following year.

The address of Botetourt to the assembly which met first after his arrival, was, like his own character, mild and conciliatory. During the sitting of that body, however, several resolutions were passed, condemning the measures of government, in consequence of which the governor felt it his duty to dissolve them. Having summoned the burgesses to meet him in the council chamber, he there presented them with the following laconic address, "Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of burgesses, I have heard of your resolves, and augur ill of their effects; you have made it my duty to dissolve you, and you are dissolved accordingly."

The members having met in a private house in town, appointed a speaker and formed unanimously a non-importation agreement.

The governor used all his influence to promote the interests, and restore the peace of the colonies. His death, which happened in 1771, cast a gloom over the affairs of Virginia. Equally celebrated for the soundness of his judgment and the honesty of his heart, lord Botetourt received and merited the affections of the people. Never was the administration of the government in the hands of one more beloved, or whose death was more justly lamented. The assembly testified their respect for his character by passing a resolution to erect a statue to his memory.

William Nelson, being president of the council, occupied the chair of government until the arrival of lord Dunmore in the year 1772. This nobleman had been governor of New York, from which place he was removed to Virginia. He had previously sent on his family, under the care of captain Foy, his private secretary, an officer who had won some glory in

the battle of Minden, but whose military talents were watched with a jealous eye by the colonists. They were afraid he was designed as an instrument to enforce the measures of government, and their suspicions were increased by the enlargement of his salary by the governor, without the cognizance of the assembly, and contrary to the established laws and customs of the country. The assembly did not neglect to lay before the governor the sense of the house on the subject. The mildness of his answer was calculated to silence their murmurs, but could not secure their confidence. His advent seemed the precursor of war and all its train of horrors.

During the following session of the assembly a committee of correspondence was appointed, for the purpose of obtaining the earliest information, both of the measures of the British government, and the proceedings of the sister colonies. This committee consisted of the following persons: Peyton Randolph, Robert Carter Nicholas, Richard Bland, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton,

Patrick Henry, Dudley Digges, Dabney Carr, Archibald Carey, and Thomas Jefferson.

The colony of Virginia, next to that of Massachusetts, was most active in her opposition to the arbitrary measures of government. When intelligence was received of the shutting up of Boston port, the assembly entered an animated protest on their journals, against that and other measures, which they said "were the result of a determination to enslave the colonies." While engaged in these proceedings they received a summons to the council chamber, and were immediately dissolved. On the succeeding day the members met at the Raleigh tavern, where they formally agreed among themselves, and recommended the same to others, not to purchase any tea or East India commodity, except saltpetre and spices, until the duties should be taken off. They also recommended to their committee of correspondence, to communicate with the other colonial committees of correspondence on the expediency of calling a general congress.

While the assembly of Virginia were en-

gaged in these momentous deliberations, our frontiers became the theatre of Indian depredation and cruelty. The sad tidings from the borders at length arrested the attention of the governor, who issued orders to the back counties to furnish their respective quotas of militia.

The Indian name was no longer terrible to the Virginians, whose dexterity in the use of the rifle had taught the enemy to dread the dangerous contest. An army of three thousand was soon raised, chiefly from the counties of Bedford, Augusta, and Botetourt. Fifteen hundred men, under the command of colonel Andrew Lewis, were ordered to proceed towards the mouth of the Great Kenhaway, while the remainder, with Dunmore at their head, marched to a point farther up the Ohio, with a design to reach the Indian towns in the absence of their warriors.

The division under Lewis having arrived at Point Pleasant, received intelligence that a large body of Indians were approaching within a mile of their camp. The news was soon confirmed by the arrival of several scouts, some of whom



bore fatal marks of the proximity of the foe. A detachment of three hundred men, under the command of colonels Charles Lewis and Fleming, advanced to the attack, assisted by captains Dickinson, Harrison, Wilson, Lockridge, J. Lewis, Burford, Love, Shelby and Russell. Lewis, at the head of the first division, proceeded to the right at some distance from the Ohio, while Fleming with the other division marched on the left towards the bank of the river. About sunrise a firing was opened against the right wing by a body of about fifteen hundred Indians. The commencement of the attack, which among savages is always impetuous, proved very destructive to the militia. Colonel Lewis, the commander of the right division, fell early in the engagement, and a number of his men were either killed or wounded. At length the whole division was compelled to fall back, while the left, under Fleming, was equally hard pressed. This brave officer, having received a wound on his wrist, still continued to animate his men, who seemed willing to dispute every inch of ground with

the enemy. The superior numbers of the latter enabled them to outflank the Virginians, while the party that had defeated Lewis were preparing to attack Fleming in the rear. At this critical moment, the advance divisions were relieved by the arrival of a reinforcement under colonel Field, whose assistance turned the scale of victory, and decided the fate of the day. The retreat of the enemy was however slow, and their firing, which continued under cover of the woods, was not silenced till dark.

In this engagement, which lasted the whole day, upwards of fifty Virginians, including colonels Lewis and Field, were killed, and about ninety wounded.

After the battle, colonel Andrew Lewis, anxious to revenge the death of his brother, proceeded towards the Shawanese towns for the purpose of destroying them. On his way he was met by an express from Dunmore, informing him that his lordship had concluded a peace with the Indians, who had agreed to give up their lands on this side of the Ohio, and set at liberty their prisoners.

It was while the articles of this treaty were adjusting that the famous speech of Logan is said to have been delivered to lord Dunmore. This eloquent chief was the son of Shikillemus, a celebrated warrior of the Cayuga nation, whose residence was at Shamokin. He was represented by Mr. Hockewelder, a Moravian missionary, as a man of talents and a friend to the whites. In the year 1774 the family of Logan was sacrificed by the indiscriminate vengeance of a party of whites under the command of captain Michael Cresap. This fatal attack on the family and peace of Logan, too much resembled his own mode of warfare, and ought not to be excused on the ground of retaliation. The immediate cause of the outrage was a report of a number of white persons, who were looking for a new settlement, having been killed by the Indians. But justice, to punish the crimes of the warrior, did not require the blood of his innocent wife and children. The war, which followed in consequence of this severe attack on the family of the chief, was marked by all the ferocity of savage vengeance. Happily the

battle of Point Pleasant brought these hostilities to a close, and compelled the enemy to sue for peace. The implacable Logan, however, refused to listen to the sound of peace, but remaining in his cabin, he is said to have sent by a messenger the following warlike address to Dunmore.

“ I appeal to any white man to say if ever  
“ he entered Logan’s cabin hungry, and he  
“ gave him not meat; if ever he came cold  
“ and naked, and he clothed him not. During  
“ the last long and bloody war Logan remain-  
“ ed idle in his cabin, an advocate for peace.  
“ Such was Logan’s love for the whites, that  
“ my countrymen pointed as they passed and  
“ said, Logan is the friend of white men. I  
“ had even thought to have lived with you,  
“ but for the injuries of one man. Colonel  
“ Cresap, the last spring, in cold blood and  
“ unprovoked, murdered all the relations of  
“ Logan, not even sparing my women and  
“ children. There runs not a drop of my blood  
“ in the veins of any living creature. This  
“ called on me for revenge. I have sought it.

“ I have killed many. I have fully glutted my  
“ vengeance. For my country I rejoice at the  
“ beams of peace. But do not harbour a thought  
“ that mine is the joy of fear. Logan never  
“ felt fear. He will not turn on his heel to save  
“ his life. Who is there to mourn for Logan!  
“ Not one.”

Whether this be really the speech of Logan, or was put in his mouth by the ingenuity of some poetic fancy, I shall not pretend to decide. It is certainly characterized by the laconic and figurative style of the Indians. I cannot, however, see in it that “tender sentiment” and “sublime morality” which the historians of Virginia say it possesses. Certainly there is nothing either tender or sublime in the declaration of savage vengeance, and the confession of having glutted himself with the blood of his enemies. The end of this bloody warrior corresponded with his life. After “having killed many and glutted his vengeance with blood,” he went to Detroit, on his return from which place he was murdered. After the return of peace had compelled Logan to forbear the use



of the tomahawk and the hatchet, the renowned warrior had become an abandoned sot. The immoderate use of brandy had stupified his mental powers, and mingled with the ferocity of the savage, the delirious ravings of the drunkard.

## CHAPTER XII.

TOWARDS the close of the year 1774 the affairs of the colony began to wear a most eventful aspect. Preparations were every where making to decide by arms those grand points that could not be settled by argument. In September a deputation from all the colonies met at Philadelphia, to deliberate on the important affairs of the nation. This august assembly, not inferior to a Roman senate for wisdom or virtue, evinced the sincerity of their loyalty as well as the firmness of their patriotism. Their attachment to the crown was not more sincere than their determination to resist its encroachments on the rights and liberties of the people. While they breathed the spirit of peace and loyalty, they did not neglect to confirm the people in their opposition to tyranny and oppression. Much important business came be-

fore the house, a detail of which more properly belongs to a general history of the revolution.

The public mind, now writhing under the lash of ministerial arrogance, awaited only the word of her rulers to plant the standard of revolt, and array her forces against the power and pride of Britain. In consequence of the hostile appearances in some of the colonies, orders were issued to the provincial governors to deprive the people of the means of resistance, by removing the military stores to places of security.

In compliance with this order, governor Dunmore, whose mind was assailed by terrors, often the companions of an unsound heart, removed the powder from the magazine in Williamsburg, and placed it on board the *Magdalen* man of war. This measure excited a ferment among the people of the town, who assembled for the purpose of demanding restitution. They were prevailed on, however, to disperse, and a remonstrance was presented to the governor against the removal of the powder, which was stated to be necessary to the defence of the

colony, in the event of an insurrection amongst the negroes. The governor gave assurances that the powder should be restored the moment that the public security required it. This answer, unsatisfactory as it was in its nature, seemed to quiet the minds of the people for the moment; but the subsequent conduct of Dunmore was not calculated to restore harmony to the colony. Conscious of having deserved the enmity of the people, he took care to provide against its effects. He removed his family on board the Fowey man of war, fearful of an attack on his palace, which was defended chiefly by parties of negroes whom he had armed as his lifeguard.

The peace of the town was much disturbed by a report, that in case of any tumult the inhabitants were to be massacred. The feelings of the people were wrought up to an alarming height, and not only at the seat of government, but throughout the colony, the dark cloud of war seemed to be gathering fast. At Fredericksburg, the militia took a most menacing attitude. They encamped in the field, armed

and equipt for service, while deputies were sent to ascertain how matters stood at Williamsburg. In several other places preparations were making for marching to the seat of government, in case of necessity. The patriots of Hanover, more zealous than the rest, without waiting for orders, marched with the illustrious Patrick Henry at their head, for the purpose of demanding restitution of the powder which Dunmore had taken from the magazine. By the time they had reached Doncastle ordinary, sixteen miles from Williamsburg, their numbers had increased to near five hundred men.

The approach of Henry at the head of an armed force excited in the breast of Dunmore the most serious apprehensions. His perilous situation compelled him to ask advice of the council, which at that time consisted of the following persons: William Nelson, president, Mr. Camm, president of the college, Ralph Wormley, colonel G. Corbin, G. Corbin, junior, colonel William Byrd and John Page. It was agreed in council that a deputation should



meet the volunteers, and dissuade them from entering the town.

Henry in the mean time having halted at the house of colonel G. Corbin, the king's receiver general, obtained from him, chiefly through the influence of a Mr. Braxton, a bill for the amount of the powder. Henry having accomplished the object of his expedition, dismissed his volunteers, and proceeded on his way to the general congress, of which he again had been elected a member.

In consequence of this spirited conduct of Mr. Henry, he was denounced by a proclamation of the governor, and the people of Hanover were forbid to aid or assist him in any seditious measures, under the penalty of being declared rebels. His conduct, however, was applauded by his country, and he had the satisfaction of receiving from different parts of the colony the warmest testimonials of approbation.

While the cloud of war was thus gathering over Virginia, news arrived that it had already burst in New England. The battle of Lexing-

ton, quick as an electric shock, roused the most languid and animated the most patriotic.

The governor of Virginia, no longer thinking himself secure in his palace, took refuge on board the Fowey man of war. This step brought the royal government in Virginia to a close. Lord Dunmore not only refused, on the solicitation of the assembly, to return to the palace, but declined giving his assent to several important bills offered by the assembly for his concurrence. This body now dissolved themselves, most of the members having been elected to the convention about to meet in Richmond. A short time afterwards Dunmore and his family, attended by captain Foy, sailed from Yorktown.

In July 1775 the convention met in Richmond, for the purpose of organizing a provincial form of government and plan of defence for the colony. The latter important trust was placed in the hands of a committee of public safety, consisting of the following illustrious characters: Edmund Pendleton, George Mason, John Page, Richard Bland, Thomas Lud-

well Lee, Paul Carrington, Dudley Digges, James Mercer, Carter Braxton, William Cabell and John Tabb. Most of these names will be familiar to the reader versed in the annals of his country.

Edmund Pendleton was a member of the first congress in the year 1774, and was again appointed at the next election; but in the year 1775 his bad state of health induced him to decline the honour of a third election. He was for many years one of the judges of the court of appeals, in which he presided at the time of his death. In 1787 he was appointed president of the convention which met to consider the constitution proposed for the government of the United States. For its adoption he was a powerful advocate. In the year 1789 he was appointed by Washington district judge, but declining the office, it was filled by the appointment of Cyrus Griffin. During the administration of Adams the venerable judge published a pamphlet against a war with France. He died in Richmond, October 26th, 1803, in the eighty-third year of his age.

George Mason was not less illustrious as a statesman nor less virtuous as a citizen. He was a member of the general convention which, in the year 1787, framed the federal constitution, as well as of the convention of Virginia which in the following year met for its adoption. In the former body he refused to sign his name to the instrument formed by his coadjutors; in the latter he used the whole force of his reasoning powers against its adoption. In George Mason the friends to the federal constitution found, next to Mr. Henry, their most powerful opponent. He opposed the general plan as tending to consolidation, and contended for a reservation to the states of all powers not delegated. He was so averse from that section that allowed the slave trade for twenty years, that he wished rather to exclude the southern states from the union than admit so illegal a traffic. He died at his seat at Gunston Hall in the year 1792, at the age of sixty-seven years.

John Page, equally distinguished for his talents and his patriotism, was worthy the

many important trusts committed to his hands. From the commencement of the revolution till his death, he was the friend and faithful servant of his country. He was one of the representatives from Virginia in the first congress under the federal constitution. In the year 1800 he was chosen one of the electors of president, and in 1802 was elected governor of Virginia. He died at Richmond, October 11th, 1808, in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

Richard Bland was a political writer, and an active member of the house of burgesses about the commencement of the revolution. He published, in the year 1766, an inquiry into the rights of the British colonies, in answer to a pamphlet published in London in the preceding year.

The convention voted for the service of the state, two regiments of regulars to serve for one year, and also ordered that a portion of the militia should encamp by regiments, for the purpose of improving in military exercises. These were denominated minute men, from the nature of their enlistment, which required



them to be ready to march at a minute's warning.

The general committee met soon after at Hanover town, where those who had been elected officers by their companies repaired to get their commissions. The committee also appointed a commissary of stores, and another of provisions, in order that supplies adequate to the wants of the army might be ready. Their attention was next turned to Norfolk, where it was expected Dunmore, who had not yet left the coast of Virginia, would make an attack. Captain Davis, of the Norfolk volunteers, was ordered to collect and mount all the cannon he could procure. The committee after making these arrangements adjourned to meet in Williamsburg.

Meanwhile Dunmore, whose force consisted of three or four armed vessels and two companies of the fourteenth regiment just arrived from the West Indies, together with a few negroes and tories, was preparing for an attack on Hampton. The inhabitants of that place had excited his lordship's vengeance by affording

shelter to two young men of the name of Barron, who had annoyed his fleet and burnt two of his vessels. These adventurous patriots commanded two pilot boats, with which they hovered near the enemy, and when pursued they made Hampton their place of retreat. Hampton was unable to resist Dunmore without military aid, and it was a question with the committee whether policy required the defence of the coast, or whether it should be abandoned to the enemy. The disgraceful idea of wasting the country before the invaders, was warmly and successfully reprobated by John Page, the early and steady friend of the revolution. It was accordingly determined to send a force to the assistance of Hampton; and captain Nicholas, of the second regiment of regulars, and captain Lyne of the King and Queen county minute men, were appointed for that purpose. These were followed by colonel Woodford, with one hundred riflemen of the Culpeper battalion.

Before the arrival of Woodford an attack was made on the town by a party of the enemy,

who met with a reception that compelled them to abandon the enterprise. The town was soon after strengthened by the arrival of Woodford, who posted his men in the most advantageous situation to repel an attack. Early in the morning, the fleet of Dunmore appeared in view, and began to cannonade the town. The firing was answered from the beach by the riflemen, who under cover of woods and bushes annoyed the enemy on their decks and compelled them to retire.

Dunmore next attempted to get possession of some cannon belonging to the colony, in Princess Anne county. Colonel Hutchinson, the county commandant, having received intelligence of his lordship's movements, prepared to attack him on his way thither. For this purpose, he placed a number of men in ambush on the road which Dunmore was expected to take. But the plan was better laid than executed. On the approach of the enemy the party was thrown into confusion, and their commander and some of the men were made prisoners.

After this affair Dunmore finding that the provincials were preparing to attack him, took a strong position at Great Bridge, on Elizabeth river, where he hoped to intercept the militia that were marching against him. Here he erected a fort, which he garrisoned with a company of regulars under major Leslie.

The committee to whom was intrusted the defence of the colony, sent colonel Woodford with the second regiment, and a party of militia, to dislodge the enemy from their post. This officer, having despatched colonel Scott and major Marshall\* with part of the troops in advance, proceeded with the remainder to Suffolk, where he was joined by a number of equestrian volunteers. Meanwhile the advance detachment under Scott and Marshall, having seized all the boats in the river, were ready to cross and attack the enemy. On the arrival of Woodford a breastwork was constructed within cannon shot of the fort, but for want of artillery no attack could be made.

\* Father of the present Chief Justice.

On the ninth of December captain Fordyce was ordered to storm the works of the provincials. At sunrise a column, led by about sixty grenadiers, advanced along the bridge with fixed bayonets against the breastwork. They were saluted by a heavy fire in front, and attacked in flank by a small party under captain Stevens, who was posted on an eminence on the left. Under this destructive fire they continued to advance, until the fall of the commandant, within a few steps of the breastwork, was taken as a signal for retreat. In this ill-judged attack almost every grenadier was either killed or wounded. Their retreat was covered by the cannon of the fort. After this repulse lord Dunmore and most of his followers took refuge on board his vessels, and the provincial troops marched into Norfolk.

During their stay in Norfolk the soldiers considerably annoyed the enemy, by firing into their vessels, under cover of the houses which stood along the shore. In revenge for these insults, lord Dunmore commenced a heavy cannonade on the town. On the night of the 1st



of January 1776, a party of the enemy landed under cover of their cannon, and set fire to the houses near the river which afforded shelter to our troops. The latter beheld the progress of the flames with less concern, from an apprehension that the British designed to make Norfolk a permanent post. Impressed with this idea, the committee of public safety sent orders to colonel Howe, who commanded in Norfolk, to destroy the remainder of the town. Thus was the most populous\* town in Virginia reduced to ashes, from a vain hope that its destruction would remove the seat of the war from our colony.

Colonel Howe was assisted in the command at Norfolk by colonels Woodford and Stevens, two able and zealous officers. In addition to the two regiments already in service, the convention determined to raise seven more for the defence of the colony.†

After the vote of the convention for raising

\* Norfolk contained near 6000 inhabitants.

† For note see the next page.

the new troops had taken place, the committee of safety informed their representatives in congress of that measure, desiring them to use their endeavours to have the whole supported from the continental treasury. Only six regiments, however, were received into pay by congress, who granted commissions to the officers in the order they stood recommended by the convention, beginning with colonel Henry of the first, and ending with colonel Buckner of the sixth regiment.

Colonel Henry, on being offered his commission, declined the honour, having determined to retire from military service. He accordingly resigned the command he held under the convention, and retired to his residence in

† The following gentlemen were also chosen as field officers to the troops about to be raised.

<i>Regiment.</i>	<i>Colonels.</i>	<i>Lieutenant Colonels.</i>	<i>Majors.</i>
Third,	Hugh Mercer.	George Weedon.	Thomas Marshall.
Fourth,	Adam Steven.	Isaac Read.	R. Lawson.
Fifth,	William Peachy.	William Crawford.	J. Parker.
Sixth,	Mordecai Buckner.	Thomas Elliott.	J. Hendricks.
Seventh,	William Dangerfield.	Alex. McClanahan.	William Nelson.
Eighth,	Peter Muhlenburg.	A. Bowman.	P. Helvinstone.
Ninth,	Thomas Flemming.	George Matthews.	M. Donavon.

Hanover. Previous to his departure from Williamsburg he received an address from the officers and soldiers of his regiment, in which they expressed their regret at his leaving them, but applauded his spirited resentment to what they styled *a most glaring indignity*. From this address it appears that Mr. Henry's resignation was owing to some disgust at the new arrangement that had taken place, or to some part of the conduct of the committee of safety. Immediately after his return home he was chosen one of the delegates to represent the county of Hanover in convention.

On Monday the 6th of May, forty-five members of the house of burgesses met at the capitol in Williamsburg, pursuant to their last adjournment; but it being their opinion that they could no longer act under the ancient constitution, they unanimously dissolved themselves. The same day the general convention of delegates, from the different counties and corporations, met at the capitol, and having appointed Edmund Pendleton president, and

John Tazewell clerk, they proceeded to the consideration of the important affairs of the colony.

On the 15th of the same month the convention, after appealing to "the Searcher of hearts" for the sincerity of their former declarations in favour of peace and union with the mother country, adopted unanimously the following resolution.

"That the delegates appointed to represent  
 "this colony in general congress be instructed  
 "to propose to that respectable body *to declare*  
 "*the united colonies free and independent States,*  
 "absolved from all allegiance to, or depen-  
 "dence on the crown or parliament of Great  
 "Britain; and that they give the assent of this  
 "colony to such declaration, and whatever  
 "measures may be thought necessary by con-  
 "gress for forming foreign alliances, and a  
 "confederation of the colonies at such time  
 "and in the manner that to them shall seem  
 "best: provided, that the power of forming  
 "governments for, and the regulations of the  
 "internal concerns of each colony be left to  
 "the colonial legislatures." They also appoint-

ed a committee to prepare *a declaration of rights*, and a *plan of government*\* for the colony.

The declaration of rights prepared by the committee, in consequence of the resolution of the house, after having undergone some slight alterations was, on the twelfth of June, approved by an unanimous vote of the convention. On the 29th of the same month a constitution or form of government, built on the solid base of equal rights, was unanimously adopted by the house. In order to put this government in motion, it was declared in the last clause of the constitution, “that the representatives of the people, met in convention, shall choose a governor and privy council and such other officers, directed to be chosen by both houses, as may be judged necessary to be immediately appointed. The senate to be first chosen by the people, to continue till the last day of March next, and the other officers until the end of the succeeding session of the assembly.”

\* Note III. Appendix.



In pursuance of the above regulation the following appointments were made under the new plan of government.

Patrick Henry, Esquire, Governor.

John Page, Dudley Digges, John Tayloe, John Blair, Benjamin Harrison of Berkeley, Bartholomew Dandridge, Charles Carter of Shirley, and Benjamin Harrison of Brandon, counsellors of state.

Thomas Whiting, John Hutchings, Champion Travis, Thomas Newton jun. and George Webb, Esquires, commissioners of admiralty.

Thomas Everard and James Cocke, Esquires, commissioners for settling accounts.

Edmund Randolph, Esquire, attorney general.

On the 5th of July the general convention adjourned themselves, to meet on the first Monday of October following. During their session they passed, beside the declaration of rights and plan of government, several ordinances for the defence and internal improvement of the colony, the most important of which were the following:

An ordinance for erecting salt works in the colony. For establishing a board of commissioners to superintend and direct the naval affairs of the colony. For raising six troops of horse. For arranging the counties into districts for electing senators, &c. They also resolved to expunge from the litany such parts as related to the king and royal family, and substituted in the morning and evening service such forms of expression as were better suited to the new state of affairs.

The declaration of independence, so strongly recommended by the Virginia convention, was passed in congress on the Fourth of July 1776; and agreeably to an order of the privy council, it was proclaimed on the 25th of the same month at the capitol, the court-house, and the palace at Williamsburg, amidst the acclamations of the people, and accompanied by the firing of cannon and musquetry.

Lord Dunmore having left Hampton Roads with his whole fleet, sailed up the bay of Chesapeake, and about the first of June landed on Gwynn's island, near the mouth of the Rappa-

hannock, where he fortified himself. His force was about five hundred men, including negroes. In this position he was attacked by a body of troops, under the command of brigadier general Lewis, and compelled to abandon the island, leaving behind a great part of his baggage.

Tired at length of a war which yielded only disgrace and disappointment, lord Dunmore, after despatching the miserable remnant of his followers to Florida and the West Indies, sailed from Virginia, and arrived with lord William Campbell and sir Peter Parker off Staten island on the 14th of August 1776.

### CHAPTER XIII.

HAVING given a detail of the military and civil events in Virginia, until the establishment of the present republican form of government, it may not be uninteresting to close the colonial history with a brief survey of the genius and literature of our country at this period. And here the slightest observation will convince us, that the opinion entertained by the British, and publicly expressed in parliament, respecting the ignorance of the colonists, was equally illiberal and unfounded.

The depth and boldness of our political essays, and the masterly eloquence displayed in our councils, refutes the calumny. Few assemblies could boast of more wisdom, and none of more virtue, than the first general congress of the colonies. Of this august body, the Virginia representation formed, in weight of talents and integrity of principle, a very important part.

Virginia fostered in her bosom the most enlightened statesmen and the most illustrious heroes. She gave a leader to our armies and an orator of the highest order to our councils. The celebrated Patrick Henry was among the earliest and ablest supporters of the revolution. He possessed a mind fraught with wisdom and a patriotism steady as the beam of heaven. We have already seen him at the head of a band of volunteers directing his march against the palace of Dunmore, whose seat he was so soon to occupy, and on the ruin of whose power his own and his country's glory was shortly to be built. But when declaiming in the great councils of the nation, our admiration rises at the extent of his knowledge and the resistless force of his eloquence. He combined in a happy degree the power of reasoning with the more attractive accomplishments of the orator. Without the aid of extensive learning, or the influence which family and fortune bestow, he possessed a control over the passions and opinions of his audience, which his own eloquence alone could describe. To a clear understanding and a correct



taste, he united a bold imagination and mysterious power of expression which argument could not resist nor obstinacy withstand. As early as the year 1765, Mr. Henry was a member of the assembly of Virginia, in which body he introduced some resolutions that breathed a spirit of liberty and showed the zeal and patriotism of his youthful mind. In the year 1774 he was chosen a deputy from Virginia to the first congress, and formed one of the committee who drew up the petition to the king.

As already observed, Mr. Henry was active in opposing the tyranny of lord Dunmore, and marched in person with the volunteers of Hanover to demand restitution of the powder carried off from the magazine. He was afterwards appointed colonel of the first Virginia regiment, but thinking himself not well treated by the committee of safety, he shortly after resigned his commission, and withdrew from public service.\* His country, however, knew his worth too well to allow him a long retirement. In the

\* MS. Penes me.

year 1776 he was elected by the convention first governor of Virginia under the new constitution, and continued in that high office for several successive years. In the year 1778 he received an anonymous letter, designed to alienate his affections from his friend general Washington. This letter he enclosed to the general to put him on his guard against the insidious attacks of his enemies. In June 1788, he was a member of the Virginia convention, in which he opposed the adoption of the federal constitution with all the power of his eloquence. Almost the whole weight of opposition devolved on him, and the difficulty of the task only served to unfold the astonishing resources of his mind. He opposed the constitution on the ground, that changes were dangerous to liberty, and that the proposed plan was a consolidation in which the rights of the states would be lost in the powers of the general government. To reply to the arguments of a Madison, a Randolph and a Marshall, required no ordinary share of understanding and eloquence. Although opposed to its adoption,

Mr. Henry was a firm supporter of the constitution when adopted.

After the resignation of Mr. Randolph in the year 1795, Mr. Henry was nominated secretary of state by president Washington, but considerations of a private nature induced him to decline the honour. In November 1796 he was again elected governor of Virginia, but resigned the office soon after his appointment.

In the year 1799 Mr. Henry was appointed by president Adams envoy to France with Messrs. Ellsworth and Murray. In reply to the letter of the secretary of state, he mentions a severe indisposition and his advanced age and weakness as a reason for declining the appointment. This letter was dated the 16th of April 1799, at Redhill in Charlotte county, where he died on the 6th of June following.\*

The name of Jefferson also claims a distinguished place in the annals of our country. Early in the revolution he commenced that path of

\* American Biography. Burk's Virginia. Marshall's Washington, &c.

fame which led to the highest honours his country could bestow. His essay on the rights of British America, written early in the year 1774, showed no less depth of research than soundness of judgment. The rights of the colonies were investigated with clearness, and their wrongs portrayed with just severity. This work was designed as a draft of a petition to the king, which Mr. Jefferson, as a member of the convention of 1774, designed to propose to the house. Having been stopped on his way by sickness, he sent it to the speaker, who laid it on the table for the perusal of the members. It was considered as too strong for the times, and was on that account not adopted by the house, but the approbation of the members may be inferred from their unanimous subscription for its publication.

About the same time was published an essay entitled "Considerations on the present state of Virginia examined." This critique was written by Robert Carter Nicholas, and was rendered interesting by the importance of the subject and the spirit with which it was written.

In the other colonies also, many valuable essays were published upon the subject of our differences with the mother country. Of these the following were deservedly esteemed for their force and ingenuity. "Observations on the Boston port bill," by Josiah Quincy: "Considerations on the nature and extent of the authority of the British parliament," by James Wilson: "Strictures on a Pamphlet entitled 'A friendly address to all reasonable Americans,'" by general Charles Lee\* &c. &c.

Although the monuments of genius, erected in the period of which we speak, are chiefly confined to the statesman and politician, yet the silent walks of philosophy were not untrod, nor were the fields of science left unexplored by our ancestors. The names of Franklin and Rittenhouse, the one a native of Boston, the other of Germantown, have cast a lustre around the

\* The above essays are in possession of Mr. Jefferson, whose care has collected and preserved from oblivion many valuable papers and much useful information.



American name. Bartram,\* the American naturalist, was pronounced by Linnæus, the greatest natural botanist in the world.

John Banister, of Virginia, was not less remarkable for his botanical researches, though less celebrated in the literary world. He settled in the colony towards the close of the 17th century, and devoted his time to the study of plants, with that success that attends the assiduous efforts of genius. He collected and described a variety of rare species of plants, but unfortunately in one of his excursions he fell from a rock and was killed. His botanical friends have honoured his memory by calling a plant of the decandrous class, *Banisteria*.

But Virginia can boast of another naturalist still more distinguished for his talents and research. John Clayton was the son of an eminent lawyer, who was for some time attorney general of Virginia. At an early age he was placed in the office of Peter Beverley, clerk for Gloucester county, and as successor to that

gentleman retained the office upwards of fifty years. He died at the age of eighty-eight, and till his last year retained the vigour of his constitution, and the strength and acuteness of his understanding. His residence was about twenty miles from Williamsburg, but he visited most of the settled parts of Virginia, and even traversed the country lying along the eastern side of the Blue Ridge, in quest of botanical knowledge. His descriptions of plants were so remarkable for their accuracy and plainness, that the species he described was seldom left doubtful. Clayton was a member of several learned societies of Europe, and a correspondent of several eminent naturalists, amongst whom were Gronovius and Linnæus. He left at his death two volumes of manuscripts prepared for the press, and also a *Hortus Siccus* of folio size, with marginal notes and directions to the engraver. These works perished in the wreck of the revolution; but several of his essays, among which is an account of the medicinal plants of Virginia, were preserved from a similar fate by a place in the philosophical transactions. His

*Flora Virginiaca* was also published in Europe, by professor Gronovius, and served to give him a name amongst the learned of his day. It is frequently referred to by Linnæus and other naturalists of the age.\*

If we pass from the department of natural to that of civil history, we find ourselves transplanted to a dreary waste, where but few flowers attract our view. The early histories of Virginia are remarkable for dryness of detail and clumsiness of composition. In the year 1705, R. Beverly, a native of Virginia, published a history of the colony from its first establishment till his own time. This work embraced also the natural productions, and the manners and customs of the natives. But the conciseness of its

\* Le père du col. Banister de Virginie avoit précédé M. Bertram et ne lui étoit point inférieur; mais aucun d'eux n'est à comparer au fameux docteur Clayton mort peu avant la révolution. Il a considérablement augmenté le dictionnaire de botanique, et est connu dans les écoles d'Europe sous le nom de Linnée Virginien.

Recher. Hist. et polit. sur les Etats Unis.

narration, and the frigidness of its style, render it little instructive and less amusing to the reader.

In the year 1747, the reverend William Stith, president of William and Mary college, published a history of Virginia in one octavo volume. This work, which details the affairs of the colony till the year 1624, contains in an appendix, a collection of charters relating to the period comprised in the volume. The author, besides the materials of Smith\* and Beverly, derived much information from the manuscripts of his uncle sir John Randolph, and also from the records of the London company, which were in the hands of William Byrd, president of the council. Mr. Stith, although not deficient in classical learning, was entirely destitute of taste as a writer. His history is remarkable for

\* Captain John Smith published his sixth voyage to Virginia in 1606.—His first voyage to New England, 1614.—His second to New England, 1615.—Description of New England, 1617.—The general history of Virginia, New England and the Somer islands, in six books folio, 1627.—His travels and adventures, 1630.

prolixity and minuteness of narration, but his faithfulness as a historian I believe has never been impeached.

Agreeably to the arrangements made in the late convention, the general assembly met at the capitol in Williamsburg on the first Monday in October 1776. In conformity with the new constitution, the legislature of Virginia now consisted of two branches, called the house of delegates and the senate. The honourable Edmund Pendleton was chosen speaker of the former body, and Archibald Carey, Esquire, of the senate or upper house.

The attention of the legislature was early called to the state of the colony, and an increase of the military force was determined on. While the affairs of the commonwealth were thus progressing towards domestic security and order, and civil liberty seemed to be placed on the solid base of equal rights and free representation, our sea-board and western borders were exposed to the ravages of war. On the frontiers, the Indians committed many depredations, and hitherto no important stand had been made



against them, since the expedition under Col. Lewis to the Ohio. It was at length determined by the assembly to raise a force sufficient to repel if not to vanquish the hostile tribes. The command of this force, which consisted of about two hundred men, was entrusted to colonel William Christian, an able and enterprising officer. The expedition was designed principally against the Cherokee and Creek nations, who to the number of about seven hundred had encamped in Carter's valley, on the waters of Holston, from whence they sent out numerous detachments. Some of their parties penetrated over the North Mountain into the country lying along the western foot of the Blue Ridge, carrying terror and devastation wherever they went. On the approach of colonel Christian towards their settlements, they retreated with precipitancy, after making some show of disputing his passage over Broad river.

On the 18th of October colonel Christian passed the Tennessee river, and soon after reached the Cherokee towns, which he was prevented from destroying by timely overtures

of peace from the enemy. Four of their chiefs arrived at his camp with proposals which were accepted by the commander. The principal articles of the treaty consisted in the restoration of all prisoners and property detained by the savages, and the reference of all matters of dispute to the state of Virginia, in conjunction with a deputation from their own tribes. For the performance of these conditions fifteen hostages were given, such as were required by colonel Christian, to be exchanged yearly for such others as might be required by the state. Before his return, however, he destroyed three or four towns which were under the influence of chiefs who refused to accede to the offers of peace, and some of whom had been guilty of burning their prisoners.\*

The assembly, during their session this fall, passed an act for the appointment of a committee to revise the laws of the commonwealth, and prepare a code suited to the new state of affairs. This important trust was confided to hands per-

\* Virginia Gazette.

fectly competent to the task. The committee consisted of the following illustrious characters: Thomas Jefferson, Edmund Pendleton, George Wythe, George Mason, and Thomas Ludwell Lee, Esquires. The execution of the work however devolved on the three first named gentlemen, who afterwards were honoured with the first posts of dignity and importance their country could bestow.

While these affairs were transacting in Virginia, the war was progressing with various success in the other colonies. The Americans, after being defeated on Long Island, by general Howe, had abandoned the place. The evacuation of New York by the continental troops followed soon after, and the expedition against Canada was marked by the fall of general Montgomery and the retreat of his army from the walls of Quebec.

The skill and energy of the commander in chief was at this time far superior to his means. On his retreat towards New Jersey his force consisted of only about three thousand five hundred men. With this small army he was

closely pursued by lord Cornwallis, who arrived in Newark the very morning (November 28th) that Washington left it. The British general hoped to disperse the American army before it should cross the Delaware. In this however he was disappointed. Washington effected the passage of the Delaware without being compelled to fight, and saved by his superior skill and caution the army on which his country's hope seemed to rest. The prospects were indeed gloomy at this time, and in no other cause than that of liberty could success have been reasonably calculated upon. The fortitude of Washington, however, never forsook him, nor would his zeal in the cause of his country allow him to be long inactive. On the 25th of December he recrossed the Delaware, and the splendid achievements of Trenton and Princeton began to re-animate his distressed and dejected followers.

The bold resistance of the colonies called for greater force, or more skilful exertions on the part of the invaders. The war in the northern department had hitherto yielded but little glory

to the British commanders. The approach of general Burgoyne, an able and accomplished officer, from Canada, with a force of about seven thousand men, seemed to threaten the downfall of our power in that quarter. His success, however, was soon arrested by general Gates, at the head of an army superior in numbers, and not inferior in bravery to the opposing force.

The capture of Burgoyne spread a general joy throughout the colonies, and inspired their councils and their armies with new vigour in the yet doubtful contest. Meanwhile, Washington was watching in anxious suspense the movements of sir William Howe, who had sailed from New York with a force of eighteen thousand men, and a powerful fleet under the command of his brother, lord Howe. Fearing it should be a scheme to draw him to the south, and leave the Hudson with a force not sufficient to defend the important post of West Point, Washington proceeded no farther than Bucks county, in Pennsylvania, where he waited the destination of the enemy.

Sir William entering the Chesapeake, sailed



up the bay and landed his army in Cecil county, Maryland, on the eastern shore of the bay. Washington discovering his movements, took a position on the Brandywine, where he waited the approach of his foe. A severe conflict ensued which terminated in the defeat of the Americans. In this engagement the Virginia brigades, under Wayne and Weedon, distinguished themselves.\*

This battle was soon after followed by another at Germantown, in which the enemy were again victorious. The remissness, however, of sir William Howe, in improving his victories, rendered them of little importance to his cause. The destruction of a few hundred men could be of no serious consequence in the conquest of a country as extensive and populous as the United Colonies. Nothing but the utmost vigour in following up, as well as wisdom in planning his conquests, could render their effects permanent, or ensure success to the invaders. The case was very different with respect

\* Marshall's Washington, &c. &c.

to America. Her armies were improving in discipline, and every defeat taught her better how to meet the enemy in the next contest. She had already waded too far in blood to think of returning without the prize of victory in her hands.

The arrival of count D'Estaing, with a formidable fleet, in aid of the American cause, contributed to its success, and served to increase the embarrassments of the British.

On the accession of sir Henry Clinton to the chief command, the war was carried on with renewed vigour, but the plan of conquest was in some measure changed. The reduction of the southern colonies presented an object of less difficulty, but not of less value to Britain than the northern. An expedition against Georgia, under the command of lieutenant colonel Campbell, threatened the subjection of that state, while sir Henry himself was preparing to march in person to South Carolina.

## R

#### CHAPTER XIV.

THE intermediate situation of Virginia had saved her interior in some measure from the ravages of invasion. The storm of war had hitherto spent its force on the more northern colonies, and was now beginning to burst with all its horrors upon the south, while our populous state was left to throw its aid in whatever quarter it was required. It readily occurred to sir Henry Clinton, that the resistance of the southern states would depend much upon the assistance they should receive from Virginia. To humble the pride, and destroy the resources of this province, therefore became an object worth the attention of the commander in chief. An expedition threatening the overthrow of resistance in this quarter, was accordingly projected, and early in May 1779 the hostile squadron, conducted by sir George Collier, anchored in Hampton Roads. The army con-

sisted of about two thousand land forces and five hundred marines; the whole commanded by brigadier-general Matthews, an able and experienced officer.

The defenceless situation of Portsmouth and Norfolk rendered those places an easy conquest. The garrison of Fort Nelson, which consisted of about one hundred and fifty men, under the command of major Matthews, abandoned their post under cover of the night, and retired to the borders of the Dismal Swamp. On the 11th of May the British general took possession of Portsmouth, where he established his headquarters, and from whence he detached troops to Norfolk and Gosport. In these places he destroyed abundance of naval and military stores of much importance to the state.

The army continued but a short time on our shores, though long enough to destroy upwards of a hundred vessels, and a great quantity of public and private property. They burnt the town of Suffolk,\* and many private houses

\* Gordon's Am. War.—Marshall's Washington.—Lee's Memoirs, &c.

shared the same fate. This destruction of private property, which ought to be held sacred by civilized nations at war, called for the interference of the assembly. A resolve was passed in that body, requiring the governor to remonstrate against this cruel mode of carrying on war.

The army, embarking on board their ships, returned to New York, carrying with them their prizes and their plunder.

The fall of Charleston, and the success of the British arms in the south, under lord Cornwallis, portended much evil to Virginia. Her reduction was determined on by the commander in chief, and a plan apparently big with success was laid for that purpose.

As soon as Clinton was informed of the defeat of the southern army by lord Cornwallis, he despatched brigadier-general Leslie, with a force of about three thousand men, against our state. The co-operation of this detachment with the army under Cornwallis, who was expected to enter Virginia on the south, appeared fully adequate to the object in view.



Leslie arrived in the Chesapeake bay, in October 1780, and landing at Portsmouth, took possession of such vessels and other property as could be found on the coast. The defeat of major Ferguson, who had been ordered to manœuvre through the northern parts of South Carolina, and was expected to join Cornwallis at Charlotte, caused the latter to alter his plans, and prevented his junction with Leslie.\*

Some time elapsed before Leslie could obtain information of the situation of Cornwallis, and the circumstances that occurred to prevent the important junction with that officer. Meanwhile the governor of Virginia was earnestly employed in preparing to oppose the invaders. Thomas Jefferson, successor of Patrick Henry, was then governor of the state, and the assembly, composed of men selected for their wisdom and patriotism, was in session.

At this crisis, general Greene, who had been appointed to succeed Gates in the command of

Lee's Memoirs of the War in the Southern Colonies,  
Vol. II.

the southern army, arrived in Richmond, on his way to the south. As much reliance had been placed on the supplies to be received from Virginia, Greene was not a little embarrassed to find her in such a weak and exposed situation. After making such arrangements as he deemed necessary, he continued his journey to the south, leaving baron Steuben\* to direct the defence of the state. General Gates had removed his head-quarters to Charlotte, and there he surrendered into the hands of Greene the command of the southern army.

In the mean time general Leslie, leaving the shores of Virginia, sailed for Charleston, where he found orders requiring him to repair with his army to Camden. On the 19th of December he began his march with about fifteen hundred men, to effect a junction with the army under Cornwallis. This he accomplished without difficulty. On the 11th of January Cornwallis advanced towards North Carolina. Wishing to disperse the force under general Morgan,

\* Note V. Appendix.

who had been manœuvring in the western parts of the state, he despatched colonel Tarleton in pursuit of him. The splendid victory of the Cowpens checked the ardour of the pursuers and revived the drooping spirits of the Americans. The southern army was, however, unable to face their enemy in the field, and the movements of Cornwallis indicating a design to bring Greene to action, compelled the latter to retreat towards Virginia. This he safely accomplished, notwithstanding the vigorous pursuit of the British general, who had destroyed his baggage in order to effect his movements with more celerity. The van of the British army arrived just after the rear of the American had passed the Dan, which forms the dividing line between the two states. The next day general Greene wrote to Mr. Jefferson, governor of Virginia, and to baron Steuben, giving information of his situation and requesting reinforcements. The reader will find in general Lee's "Memoirs of the Southern Campaigns," an interesting and eloquent account of the retreat of Greene to the

borders of Virginia, as well as of the southern war in general.

Early in December 1780, governor Jefferson received a letter from general Washington, informing him that preparations were making by the enemy at New York, for an expedition to the south, which was probably designed against Virginia.\*

On the 30th, brigadier-general Arnold, with near fifty sail of vessels arrived in the Chesapeake, and embarking in lighter vessels proceeded up James river. On receiving news of this approaching squadron, Mr. Jefferson despatched general Nelson to collect and arrange a force with as much haste as possible, while baron Steuben with about two hundred men marched to Petersburg. On the 4th of January Arnold landed his force, consisting of about nine hundred men, at Westover, the seat of Mr. Byrd, and marched to Richmond without opposition. Thus was the metropolis of Virginia exposed to the insult and depredation of a trai-

\* Lee's Mem. South. Camp. Vol. II.

tor; her stores and archives plundered, and her governor compelled to seek security by immediate flight.

From Richmond lieutenant colonel Simcoe was despatched to Westham, where he destroyed the only cannon foundry in the state. At this place, they also destroyed the military stores, which had, on the alarm caused by Arnold's approach, been removed from Richmond. After two days spent in pillaging public and private property, general Arnold returned to Westover, where on the 10th he re-embarked his men and descended the river. On his way he landed detachments at Mackay's mill and at Smithfield, where they destroyed some public stores; and on the 20th arrived at Portsmouth.

Major general Steuben, assisted by general Nelson, having collected a considerable force, marched in pursuit of Arnold. But the movements of the latter were too rapid to be interrupted by the tardy advances of undisciplined militia. They were, however, able to prevent similar incursions, and by remaining in the



vicinity of Portsmouth, they confined the enemy to their entrenchments.

On hearing of the invasion of Virginia by the traitor Arnold, and his encampment at Portsmouth, general Washington formed a plan to cut off his retreat. He intimated to count Rochambeau and admiral D'Estouches, the importance of an immediate movement of the French fleet to the Chesapeake, and at the same time detached the marquis De la Fayette with twelve hundred men to Virginia. The French admiral, not entering fully into the views of Washington, detached only a small part of his squadron, who from their inability to effect the desired purpose, returned to the fleet at Rhode Island.

The situation of Arnold had induced sir H. Clinton to detach to his aid major-general Phillips, to whom the command of the British forces in Virginia was committed. The united detachments under Arnold and Phillips formed a body of about three thousand five hundred men. Being able to act on the offensive, general Phillips left one thousand men in Portsmouth, and pro-

ceeded with the remainder up James river, for the purpose of completing the destruction of the internal strength and resources of the state. Opposite to Williamsburg he landed, and from thence sent to Yorktown a detachment, who destroyed the naval stores in that place. Re-embarking they ascended the river to City Point, where James river receives the waters of the Appamattox. At this place Phillips landed and directed his march to Petersburg, which stands on the bank of the last mentioned stream, about twelve miles from its junction with the former.

Virginia was at this time in a defenceless situation; all the regular force of the state was under Greene in South Carolina, and her whole reliance was upon militia, of whom about two thousand were now in the field. This force, half of which was stationed on each side of James river, was under the command of baron Steuben and general Nelson. Steuben directed the southern division, on whom the defence of Petersburg devolved, and from which place he was compelled to retreat by the superior force of Phillips. During his stay in Petersburg,

general Phillips destroyed the warehouses, and spread terror and devastation, the constant attendants of British invasion, through the town. Leaving Petersburg, he crossed the Appamattox into Chesterfield, and detaching Arnold to Osborne's to destroy the tobacco at that place, he proceeded himself to Chesterfield courthouse, where he destroyed the barracks and stores which had been formed there for the accommodation of recruits designed for the southern army. The two divisions of the army uniting again, marched into Manchester, where was renewed the scene of pillage and devastation transacted in Petersburg and Chesterfield.\* The fortunate arrival of the marquis De la Fayette at Richmond, with a body of regular troops, saved the metropolis from a similar fate. From Manchester, general Phillips proceeded down the river to Bermuda hundred, opposite City Point, where his fleet remained during his incursion. Here he re-embarked his troops, and fell down the river, while the marquis followed

\* Marshall's Washington. Lee's Memoirs, &c. &c.

on the north side to watch his movements. He soon learned that Phillips, instead of returning to Portsmouth, had suddenly re-landed his army on the south side of the river, one division at Brandon and the other at City Point, and was on his march to Petersburg. It immediately occurred to the marquis, that a junction with Cornwallis, who was then approaching Virginia, was the object which Phillips had in view, and to prevent which he determined to throw himself by forced marches into Petersburg before the arrival of that general. Phillips however reached that place first, and La Fayette halting, recrossed the river and posted himself a few miles below Richmond. The death of general Phillips, soon after his arrival in Petersburg, devolved the command of the army again on general Arnold.

Cornwallis was now on his way to Petersburg, and having crossed the Roanoke he detached colonel Tarleton to secure the fords of the Meherrin, while colonel Simcoe with the rangers was sent for the same purpose to the Nottoway. The enemy effected his passage over

these rivers without interruption, and on the 20th of May entered Petersburg.

In addition to this united force, which seemed fully sufficient to crush every germ of opposition in Virginia, general Leslie had again made his appearance on the coast, with a reinforcement of two regiments and two battalions, part of which was stationed in Portsmouth under the command of that officer. The marquis De la Fayette continued near Richmond with a force of about four thousand men, nearly three-fourths of whom were militia.

Steuben, who was on the south side of James river, proceeding with about six hundred levies to reinforce general Greene, was suddenly recalled and ordered to take a position at the Point of Fork, where were deposited some military stores. General Weedon was requested to collect a force near Fredericksburg, for the purpose of protecting an important manufactory of arms at Falmouth. In addition to these different forces, general Wayne\* was on his way to Vir-

\* Note VI. Appendix.



ginia, with a detachment from the northern army of about nine hundred men. The strength of the enemy was however too great for any force Virginia could bring into the field, and her fate, as far as superior numbers and discipline could influence it, seemed now to be decided.

Cornwallis, after resting four days in Petersburg, proceeded down the south side of Appamattox and James river until he came opposite Westover, where he determined to cross. La Fayette, informed of the enemy's movement, left his encampment below Richmond and retreated behind the Chickahomony river, keeping the direction towards Fredericksburg. The enemy pursued him across that stream, anxious to bring him to battle before his junction with Wayne. La Fayette however escaped the impending blow, and hastening across the Pamunky and Mattaponi, the confluence of whose streams form York river, he endeavoured to gain the road on which Wayne was approaching. The British commander, failing in his project of bringing the marquis to battle, thought proper to change his course, and determined

to penetrate with his detachments the interior of the state. Lieutenant colonel Simcoe was directed to attack baron Steuben at Point of Fork,\* and destroy the stores at that place; while colonel Tarleton advanced to Charlottesville, where the general assembly was then convened.

Simcoe succeeded in driving Steuben from his post, and destroying the magazines under his protection; while Tarleton pushed on to Charlottesville, eager to add to his numerous exploits the capture of a corps of republican legislators. His approach however was discovered by the assembly in time for the members to make their escape. Mr. Jefferson, the governor, on hearing of their approach sought an asylum in the wilds of the mountain adjacent to his house.

After destroying some military stores, which had been deposited in Charlottesville as a place of safety, Tarleton proceeded down the Rivannah, towards the Point of Fork, near to which Cornwallis had arrived with the main body of

\* A point of land formed by the junction of the Rivannah and Fluvannah rivers.

the army. Uniting with his army the different detachments, the British commander marched to Richmond, which he entered on the 16th of June. Meanwhile La Fayette had formed a junction with Wayne, and was watching with a cautious eye the movements of the foe.

After halting a few days in Richmond, Cornwallis resumed his march towards the coast, and on the 25th of the month arrived in Williamsburg, while the marquis, with a force of between four and five thousand men, followed close on his rear. From that place the British commander detached colonel Simcoe to the Chickahomony, for the purpose of destroying some boats and stores in that river. Colonel Butler, with a detachment from the American camp, was immediately sent against this party, and a severe conflict ensued in which each side claimed the victory.

After remaining about a week in Williamsburg the British commander prepared to cross the river, and selected James city island as the most eligible place to effect a passage. In the mean time La Fayette and the intrepid general

Wayne pressed close on his rear, with a view to strike as soon as the enemy should be weakened by the van having crossed the river. Under a mistaken belief that the separation of the enemy's force had actually taken place, an attack was made on the whole strength of the British army drawn up in order of battle. The approach of night saved the American army, who effected a retreat after losing, in killed, wounded and prisoners, upwards of a hundred men.

From a belief that a grand attack was intended on New York by the combined army, sir H. Clinton had ordered Cornwallis to take a position near Portsmouth or Williamsburg, on tide water, with a view to facilitate the transportation of his forces to New York, or such aid as might be deemed necessary. In obedience to this command, Cornwallis selected York and Gloucester as the most eligible situation, where he immediately concentrated his army. The bold and discerning mind of Washington soon formed a plan to strike his lordship while encamped at York—a plan no less wisely devised than successfully executed. The arrival of the French

fleet in the Chesapeake at this juncture contributed essentially to the completion of his designs. Count De Grasse, on obtaining intelligence from La Fayette of the situation of the enemy, immediately detached four ships of the line to block up York river. Washington, fearful that Cornwallis might attempt to retreat to the south, sent orders to La Fayette to take effective measures to prevent his escape; and also wrote to Mr. Jefferson, who was still governor of Virginia, urging him to yield every aid which his situation could afford, and which the importance of the object required.

On the 14th of September general Washington arrived in Williamsburg, which was now the head-quarters of La Fayette, and proceeding to Hampton, the plan of siege was concerted with the count De Grasse.

About the 25th of the month the troops from the north arrived and formed a junction with those under De la Fayette. The whole regular force thus combined, consisted of about twelve thousand men. In addition to these there was a



body of Virginia militia under the command of the brave and patriotic general Nelson.

The trenches were opened by the combined forces on the 6th of October, at the distance of six hundred yards from the enemy's works. On the 19th the posts of York and Gloucester were surrendered to the combined forces of America and France.

The fall of Cornwallis laid prostrate the hopes of the British ministry, and cheered the war-worn soldier with the prospect of a speedy peace.

**APPENDIX:**

**CONSISTING CHIEFLY OF**

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**

**OF**

**Distinguished Characters**

**THAT OCCUR IN THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA.**



## APPENDIX.

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### No. I.

**NATHANIEL BACON**, an insurgent in Virginia, was educated at the inns of court in England, and after his arrival in this country was chosen a member of council. He was a young man of fine accomplishments, of an interesting countenance, and of impressive eloquence. The trade with the Indians in 1676 being somewhat interrupted, the people complained, and were disposed to throw the blame on the government. These murmurings were echoed by Bacon, and while he complimented the people for their discernment of the causes of their troubles, he suggested that better measures might be adopted, and that he could open again the avenues of trade. He proposed to lead them against

the Indians. The ears of the multitude were soothed by his promises and delighted with his oratory, and they unanimously elected him their general.

*American Biography.*

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No. II.

EDMUND ANDROS, governor of New England, had some command in New York in 1672, and in 1674 was appointed governor of that province. He continued in this office until 1682, exhibiting in his government but little of that tyrannical disposition which he afterwards displayed. He arrived at Boston, December 20th 1686, with a commission from king James for the government of New England. He made high professions of regard to the public good, directed the judges to administer justice according to the custom of the place, ordered the established rules with respect to taxes and rates to be observed, and declared that all the colonial laws, not inconsistent with his commission, should remain in full force. By these professions he calmed the apprehensions which had



agitated the minds of many; but it was not long before the monster stood forth in his proper shape.

Andros' administration was most oppressive and tyrannical. The press was restrained, exorbitant taxes were levied, and the congregational ministers were threatened to be deprived of their support for nonconformity. Sir Edmund, knowing that his royal master was making great progress towards despotism in England, was very willing to keep equal pace in his less important government. It was pretended, that all titles to land were destroyed, and the farmers were obliged to take new patents for which they paid large fees. He prohibited marriage, except the parties entered into bonds with sureties, to be forfeited in case there should afterwards appear to have been any lawful impediment. There was at this time but one episcopal clergyman in the country; but sir Edmund indulged the hope of receiving a supply; and he wrote to the bishop of London, intimating for the encouragement of those who might be persuaded to come to this country, that in future no mar-

riage should be deemed lawful, unless celebrated by ministers of the church of England. With four or five of his council he laid what taxes he thought proper. The fees of office were raised to a most exorbitant height. The whole of his proceedings were such as to show that he was perfectly disposed to follow all the capricious and arbitrary measures of his weak and bigoted master, king James II. At length the spirit of the people could no longer brook submission. Having sought in the wilds of America the secure enjoyment of that civil and religious liberty, of which they had been unjustly deprived in England, they were not disposed to see their dearest rights wrested from them without a struggle to retain them. Animated with the love of liberty, they were also resolute and courageous in its defence. They had for several years suffered the impositions of a tyrannical administration, and the disaffection and indignation which had been gathering during this period, were blown into a flame by the report of an intended massacre by the governor's guards. On the morning of the 18th of April, 1689, the

inhabitants of Boston took up arms, the people poured in from the country, and the governor, with such of the council as had been most active, and other obnoxious persons, about fifty in number, were seized and confined. The old magistrates were restored, and the next month the joyful news of the revolution in England reached this country, and quieted all apprehensions for the consequences of what had been done. After having been kept at the castle till February following, sir Edmund was sent to England for trial. The general court about the same time despatched a committee of several gentlemen to London, to substantiate the charges against him.

The government was reduced to a most perplexing dilemma. If they condemned sir Edmund's administration, the sentence might be drawn into a precedent, and they might seem to encourage insurrection and rebellion in future periods, when circumstances did not render so desperate an expedient necessary. On the other hand, if they should approve of the administration of Andros and censure the proceedings of the colonists, it would imply a reprobation of

the very measure which had been pursued in bringing about the revolution in England. It was therefore considered prudent to dismiss the business without coming to a final decision. The people were accordingly left in the full enjoyment of their freedom, and sir Edmund, in public estimation guilty, escaped without censure.

In 1692 he was appointed governor of Virginia, as successor to lord Effingham. This event was very surprising, and it was accounted for only on the supposition that the English ministry was composed of tories. He is not, however, represented as a bad governor in Virginia. He died in London, February 1714, at a very advanced age. *American Biography.*



### No. III.

A declaration of rights made by the representatives of the good people of Virginia, assembled in full and free convention; which rights do pertain to them and their posterity, as the basis and foundation of government.

I. That all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights, of which when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing happiness and safety.

II. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them.

III. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation, or community. Of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety, and is most effectually secured against the danger of mal-administration; and that when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community hath an indubitable, unalienable and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it,



in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.

IV. That no man or set of men are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services, which not being descendable, neither ought the offices of magistrate, legislator or judge be hereditary.

V. That the legislative and executive powers of the state should be distinct from the judiciary; and that the members of the two first may be restrained from oppression, by feeling and participating the burthens of the people, they should, at fixed periods, be reduced to a private station, return into that body from which they were originally taken, and the vacancies be supplied by frequent, certain, and regular elections, in which all, or any part of the former members, to be again eligible, or ineligible, as the laws shall direct.

VI. That elections of members to serve as representatives of the people, in assembly, ought to be free; and that all men, having sufficient evidence of permanent common interest with, and



attachment to, the community, have the right of suffrage, and cannot be taxed or deprived of their property for public uses, without their own consent, or that of their representatives so elected, nor bound by any law to which they have not, in like manner, assented, for the public good.

VII. That all power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without the consent of the representatives of the people, is injurious to their rights, and ought not to be exercised.

VIII. That in all capital or criminal prosecutions, a man hath a right to demand the cause and nature of his accusation, to be confronted with the accusers and witnesses, to call for evidence in his favour, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury of his vicinage, without whose unanimous consent he cannot be found guilty, nor can he be compelled to give evidence against himself; that no man be deprived of his liberty except by the law of the land, or the judgment of his peers.

IX. That excessive bail ought not to be re-

quired, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

X. That general warrants, whereby an officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places without evidence of a fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, or whose offence is not particularly described and supported by evidence, are grievous and oppressive, and ought not to be granted.

XI. That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, the ancient trial by jury is preferable to any other, and ought to be held sacred.

XII. That the freedom of the press is one of the greatest bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.

XIII. That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural and safe defence of a free state; that standing armies in time of peace should be avoided, as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

XIV. That the people have a right to uniform government; and therefore, that no government separate from, or independent of, the government of Virginia, ought to be erected or established within the limits thereof.

XV. That no free government, or the blessing of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue, and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

XVI. That religion, or the duty we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force and violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other.

## CONSTITUTION OF VIRGINIA.

*The Constitution, or Form of Government, agreed to and resolved upon by the Delegates and Representatives of the several Counties and Corporations of Virginia, in a General Convention held at Williamsturg, on the 6th of May, and continued by adjournments to the 5th of July, 1776.*

WE, the delegates and representatives of the good people of Virginia, do declare the future form of government of Virginia, to be as followeth:—

The legislative, executive, and judiciary departments, shall be separate and distinct, so that neither exercise the powers properly belonging to the other; nor shall any person exercise the powers of more than one of them at the same time, except that the justices of the county courts shall be eligible to either house of the assembly.

The legislative shall be formed of two distinct branches, who, together, shall be a complete legislature. They shall meet once, or oftener, every year, and shall be called, *the general assembly of Virginia*. One of these shall be called, *the house of Delegates*, and consist of two representatives, to be chosen for each county, and for the district of West-Augusta, annually, of such men as actually reside in, and are freeholders of the same, or duly qualified, according to law, and also of one delegate or representative, to be chosen annually for the city of Williamsburg, and one for the borough of Norfolk, and a representative for each of such other cities and boroughs, as may hereafter be allowed particular representation by the legislature; but when any city or borough shall so decrease, as that the number of persons, having right of suffrage therein shall have been, for the space of seven years successively, less than half the number of voters in some one county in Virginia, such city or borough thenceforward shall cease to send a delegate or representative to the assembly.



The other shall be called *the Senate*, and consist of twenty-four members, of whom thirteen shall constitute a house to proceed on business; for whose election, the different counties shall be divided into twenty-four districts; and each county of the respective district at the time of the election of its delegates, shall vote for one senator, who is actually a resident and freeholder within the district, or duly qualified according to law, and is upwards of twenty-five years of age; and the sheriffs of each county, within five days at farthest, after the last county election in the district, shall meet at some convenient place, and from the poll so taken in their respective counties, return as a senator, the man who shall have the greatest number of votes in the whole district. To keep up this assembly by rotation, the districts shall be equally divided into four classes, and numbered by lot. At the end of one year, after the general election, the six members, elected by the first division, shall be displaced, and the vacancies thereby occasioned, supplied from such classes or division, by new election, in the manner

aforesaid. This rotation shall be applied to each division, according to its number, and continued in due order annually.

The right of suffrage in the election of members for both houses, shall remain as exercised at present; and each house shall choose its own speaker, appoint its own officers, settle its own rules of proceeding, and direct writs of election, for the supplying intermediate vacancies.

All laws shall originate in the house of delegates, to be approved of or rejected by the senate, or to be amended, with consent of the house of delegates; except money bills, which in no instance shall be altered by the senate, but wholly approved or rejected.

A governor, or chief magistrate, shall be chosen annually by joint ballot of both houses (to be taken in each house respectively) deposited in the conference-room; the boxes examined jointly by a committee of each house, and the numbers severally reported to them, that the appointments may be entered (which shall be the mode of taking the joint ballot of both houses in all cases) who shall not continue in that office

longer than three years successively, nor be eligible until the expiration of four years after he shall have been out of that office. An adequate, but moderate salary, shall be settled on him, during his continuance in office: and he shall, with the advice of a council of state, exercise the executive powers of government, according to the laws of this commonwealth; and shall not, under any pretence, exercise any power or prerogative, by virtue of any law, statute, or custom of England. But he shall, with the advice of the council of state, have the power of granting reprieves or pardons, except where the prosecution shall have been carried on by the house of delegates, or the law shall otherwise particularly direct; in which cases, no reprieve or pardon shall be granted, but by resolve of the house of delegates.

Either house of the general assembly may adjourn themselves respectively. The governor shall not prorogue or adjourn the assembly during their sitting, nor dissolve them at any time; but he shall, if necessary, either by advice of the council of state, or on application of a major-

rity of the house of delegates, call them before the time to which they shall stand prorogued or adjourned.

A privy council, or council of state, consisting of eight members, shall be chosen by joint ballot of both houses of assembly, either from their own members, or the people at large, to assist in the administration of government. They shall annually choose, out of their own members, a president, who, in case of death, inability, or absence of the governor from the government, shall act as lieutenant-governor. Four members shall be sufficient to act, and their advice and proceedings shall be entered on record, and signed by the members present (to any part whereof, any member may enter his dissent) to be laid before the general assembly, when called for by them. This council may appoint their own clerk, who shall have a salary settled by law, and take an oath of secrecy, in such matters as he shall be directed by the board to conceal. A sum of money, appropriated to that purpose, shall be divided annually among the members, in proportion to their at-

tendance; and they shall be incapable, during their continuance in office, of sitting in either house of assembly. Two members shall be removed, by joint ballot of both houses of assembly, at the end of every three years, and be ineligible for the three next years. These vacancies, as well as those occasioned by death or incapacity, shall be supplied by new elections, in the same manner.

The delegates for Virginia to the continental congress shall be chosen annually, or superseded in the mean time, by joint ballot of both houses of assembly.

The present militia officers shall be continued, and vacancies supplied, by appointment of the governor, with the advice of the privy council, on recommendations from the respective county courts; but the governor and council shall have a power of suspending any officer, and ordering a court martial, on complaint of misbehaviour or inability, or to supply vacancies of officers, happening when in actual service.

The governor may embody the militia with the advice of the privy council; and when embodied



shall alone have the direction of the militia, under the laws of the country.

The two houses of assembly shall, by joint ballot, appoint judges of the supreme court of appeals, and general court judges in chancery, judges of admiralty, secretary, and the attorney general, to be commissioned by the governor, and continue in office during good behaviour. In case of death, incapacity, or resignation, the governor, with the advice of the privy council, shall appoint persons to succeed in office, to be approved or displaced by both houses. These officers shall have fixed and adequate salaries, and, together with all others, holding lucrative offices, and all ministers of the gospel, of every denomination, be incapable of being elected members of either house of assembly or the privy council.

The governor, with the advice of the privy council, shall appoint justices of the peace for the counties: and in case of vacancies, or a necessity of increasing the number hereafter, such appointments to be made upon the recommendation of the respective county courts. The

present acting secretary in Virginia, and clerks of the county courts, shall continue in office. In case of vacancies, either by death, incapacity, or resignation, a secretary shall be appointed, as before directed: and the clerks, by the respective courts. The present and future clerks shall hold their offices during good behaviour, to be judged of, and determined in the general court. The sheriffs and coroners shall be nominated by the respective courts, approved by the governor, with the advice of the privy council, and commissioned by the governor. The justices shall appoint constables; and all fees of the aforesaid officers be regulated by law.

The governor, when he is out of office, and others, offending against the state, either by mal-administration, corruption, or other means, by which the safety of the state may be endangered, shall be impeachable by the house of delegates. Such impeachment to be prosecuted by the attorney general, or such other person or persons as the house may appoint, in the general court, according to the laws of the land. If found guilty, he or they shall be forever dis-

abled to hold any office under government, or be removed from such office *pro tempore*, or subjected to such pains or penalties, as the laws shall direct.

If all or any of the judges of the general court should, on good grounds (to be judged of by the house of delegates) be accused of any of the crimes or offences above mentioned, such house of delegates may in like manner, impeach the judge or judges so accused, to be prosecuted in the court of appeals; and he or they, if found guilty, shall be punished in the same manner as is prescribed in the preceding clause.

Commissions and grants shall run, "*In the name of the commonwealth of Virginia,*" and bear test by the governor, with the seal of the commonwealth annexed. Writs shall run in the same manner, and bear test by the clerks of the several courts. Indictments shall conclude, "*against the peace and dignity of the commonwealth.*"

A treasurer shall be appointed annually, by joint ballot of both houses.

All escheats, penalties, and forfeitures, here-

tofore going to the king, shall go to the commonwealth, save only such as the legislature may abolish, or otherwise provide for.

The territories, contained within the charters, erecting the colonies of Maryland, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, are hereby ceded, released, and forever confirmed to the people of these colonies respectively, with all the rights of property, jurisdiction, and government, and all other rights whatsoever, which might, at any time heretofore, have been claimed by Virginia, except the free navigation and use of the rivers Potomaque and Pokomoke, with the property of the Virginia shores and strands, bordering on either of the said rivers, and all improvements, which have been or shall be made thereon. The western and northern extent of Virginia shall, in all other respects, stand, as fixed by the charter of king James I. in the year one thousand six hundred and nine, and by the public treaty of peace, between the courts of Britain and France in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three; unless by act of this legislature, one or more governments be esta-

blished westward of the Alleghany mountains. And no purchases of lands shall be made of the Indian natives, but on behalf of the public, by authority of the general assembly.

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#### No. IV.

JOHN BARTRAM, an eminent botanist, was born near the village of Darby in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1701. His grandfather of the same name, accompanied William Penn to this country in the year 1682.

This self-taught genius early discovered an ardent desire for the acquisition of knowledge, especially in the science of botany; but the infant state of the colony placed great obstacles in his way. He however surmounted them by intense application and the resources of his mind. By the assistance of respectable characters he obtained the rudiments of the learned languages, which he studied with extraordinary success. He acquired so much knowledge of medicine and surgery, as to administer great assistance to



the indigent and distressed in his neighbourhood. He cultivated a farm as the means of supporting a large family; but while laboriously employed in rural avocations, he was still pushing his inquiries into the operations of nature.

Mr. Bartram was the first American who conceived and carried into effect the design of a botanic garden, for the cultivation of American plants as well as exotics. He purchased an eligible situation on the banks of the river Schuylkill, about five miles from Philadelphia, where he laid out with his own hands a large garden. He furnished it with a variety of the most rare and beautiful vegetables, collected in his excursions from Canada to Florida. These excursions were principally made in autumn, when his presence at home was least demanded by his agricultural pursuits. His devotion to the science of botany was such, that at the age of seventy he made a journey into East Florida to explore its natural productions.

His travels among the Indians were frequently attended with danger and difficulty. By his means the gardens in Europe were enriched

with elegant flowering shrubs, and plants and trees collected in different parts of our country, from the shore of Lake Ontario to the source of the river St. Juan. Such was his proficiency in his favourite pursuit, that Linnæus pronounced him "the greatest natural botanist in the world."

Mr. Bartram's eminence in natural history attracted the esteem of the most distinguished men in America and Europe, and he corresponded with many of them. By means of the friendship of sir Hans Sloane, Mr. Catesby, and Dr. Hill, Linnæus and others, he was furnished with books and apparatus which he much needed, and which greatly lessened the difficulties of his situation. He in turn sent them what was new and curious in the productions of America. He was elected a member of several of the most eminent societies and academies abroad, and was at length appointed American botanist to his Britannic majesty George III., in which appointment he continued till his decease in September 1777, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

Mr. Bartram was an ingenious mechanic. The house in which he lived, he built himself; he was often his own mason, carpenter, blacksmith, &c., and generally made his own farming utensils. His stature was rather above the middle size; his body was erect and slender; his complexion was sandy; his countenance was cheerful, though there was a solemnity in his air. His gentle manners corresponded with his amiable disposition. He was modest, liberal, charitable, a friend to social order, and an advocate for the abolition of slavery. He gave freedom to a young African whom he had brought up, but who in gratitude to his master continued in his service. Though temperate, he kept a plentiful table; and annually on new year's day, he made an entertainment, consecrated to friendship and philosophy. He was born and educated in the society of friends. The following distich was engraved by himself, on a stone in the wall, over the front window of his own apartment:

'Tis God alone the Almighty Lord,  
The Holy One, by me adored.

John Bartram, 1770.

He left several children. John, his youngest son, succeeded him as proprietor of his botanic garden; but it is now chiefly under the superintendence of another son, Mr. William Bartram, who accompanied his father in many of his botanical tours, and who is well known by his book, entitled "Travels through North and South Carolina, East and West Florida," &c., published in the year 1791.

Several of Mr. Bartram's communications in zoology were published in the Philosophical Transactions, between the years 1743 and 1749. He published observations on the inhabitants, climate, soil, &c., made in his travels from Pennsylvania to Onandago, London 1751.

*American Biography.*



No. V.

FREDERICK WILLIAM, baron de STEUBEN, a major-general in the American army, was a Prussian officer who served many years in the armies of the great Frederick, was one

of his aids, and had held the rank of lieutenant-general. He arrived in New Hampshire from Marseilles, in November 1777, with strong recommendations to congress. He claimed no rank, and only requested permission to render as a volunteer what services he could to the American army. He was soon appointed to the office of inspector-general, with the rank of major-general. He established an uniform system of manœuvres, and by his skill and persevering industry effected, during the continuance of the troops at Valley Forge, a most important improvement in all ranks of the army. He was a volunteer in the action at Monmouth, and commanded in the trenches of Yorktown on the day which concluded the struggle with Great Britain. He died ~~at~~ <sup>in</sup> Steubenville, New York, November 28th, 1794, aged sixty-one years. He was an accomplished gentleman and a virtuous citizen; of extensive knowledge and sound judgment. An abstract of his system of discipline was published in the year 1779, and in 1784, he published a letter on the subject of an established militia and military arrangements.

*American Biography.*



ANTHONY WAYNE, major-general in the army of the United States, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1745. In 1773 he was appointed a representative to the general assembly, where, in conjunction with John Dickinson, Thomas Mifflin, Charles Thompson, and other gentlemen, he took an active part in opposition to the claims of Great Britain. In the year 1775 he quitted the councils of his country for a command in her army, which he entered as a colonel, and at the close of the year accompanied general Thomson to Canada. When this officer was defeated in his enterprise against the Three Rivers in June 1776, and taken prisoner, he himself received a flesh wound in the leg. His exertions were useful in the retreat. In the same year he served at Ticonderoga under general Gates, by whom he was esteemed both for his courage and military talents, and for his skill as an engineer. At the close of the campaign he was made a brigadier-general. In the campaign of 1777, in the middle states, he took a very active part. In the

battle of Brandywine he distinguished himself, though he was a few days afterwards surprised and defeated by major-general Grey. He fought also in the battle of Germantown, as well as in the battle of Monmouth in June 1778. In his most daring and successful assault upon Stoney Point, in July 1779, while he was rushing forward with his men under a tremendous fire of musketry and grapeshot, determined to carry the works at the point of the bayonet, he was struck by a musket ball upon his head. He was for a moment stunned; but as soon as he was able to rise so as to support himself on one knee, believing that his wound was mortal, he cried to one of his aids, " Carry me forward, and let me die in the fort." When he entered it he gave orders to stop the effusion of blood. In the year 1781 he was ordered to march with the Pennsylvania line from the northward, and form a junction with La Fayette in Virginia. On the 6th of July, after receiving information that the main body of the enemy under Cornwallis had crossed James river, he pressed forward with eight hundred men to attack the rear-guard. But to his utter astonishment, when he reached

the place, he found the whole British army, consisting of four thousand men, drawn up ready to receive him. At this moment he conceived of but one way to escape. He rushed towards the enemy until he came within twenty-five yards, when he commenced a gallant attack, which he supported for a few minutes, and then retreated with the utmost expedition. The British general was confounded by this movement, and apprehensive of an ambuscade from La Fayette, would not allow of a pursuit. After the capture of Cornwallis, he was sent to conduct the war in Georgia, where with equal success he contended with British soldiers, Indian savages, and American traitors. As a reward for his services the legislature of Georgia presented him with a valuable farm. At the conclusion of the war he retired to private life. In the year 1787 he was a member of the Pennsylvania convention, which ratified the constitution of the United States. In 1792 he succeeded general St. Clair in the command of the army to be employed against the Indians. In the battle of the Miamas, August 20th, 1794, he gained a

complete victory over the enemy; and afterwards desolated their country. On the 3d of August, 1795, he concluded a treaty with the hostile Indians north-west of the Ohio. While in the service of his country he died in a hut at Presque Isle, aged about fifty-one years, and was buried on the shore of Lake Erie.

*American Biography.*

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No. VII.

LORD JEFFREY AMHERST, commander in chief of the British army at the conquest of Canada in the year 1760, was born in Kent, England, January 29th, 1717. Having early discovered a predilection for a military life, he received his first commission in the year 1731, and was aid-de-camp to general Ligonier in 1741, in which character he was in the battles of Dettengin, Fontenoy, and Rocoux. He was afterwards aid-de-camp to his royal highness, the duke of Cumberland, at the battle of Laf-feldt. In the year 1758 he received orders to

return to England, being appointed for the American service. He sailed from Portsmouth, March 16th, as a major-general, having the command of the troops destined for the siege of Louisburg. On the 26th of July following he captured the place, and without farther difficulty took possession of the island of Cape Breton. After this event he succeeded Abercrombie in the command of the army in North America. In the year 1759, the vast design of the entire conquest of Canada was formed. Three armies were to attack, at near the same time, all the strong holds of the French in that country. They were commanded by Wolfe, Amherst, and Prideaux. General Amherst in the spring transferred his head-quarters from New York to Albany; but it was not till the 22d of July that he reached Ticonderoga, against which place he was to act. On the 27th this place fell into his hands, the enemy having deserted it. He next took Crown Point, and put his troops in winter quarters about the last of October. In the year 1760 he advanced against Canada, embarking on Lake Ontario, and proceeding down



the St. Lawrence. On the 8th of September M. de Vandreuil capitulated, surrendering Montreal and all other places within the government of Canada. He continued in the command in America till the latter end of 1765, when he returned to England.

In the year 1771, sir Jeffrey Amherst was made governor of Guernsey, and in 1776 he was created baron Amherst of Holmsdale, in the county of Kent. In 1778 he had the command of the army in England. In 1782 he received the gold stick from the king; but on the change of the administration, the command of the army and the lieutenant-generalship of the ordnance were put into other hands. In 1787 he received another patent of peerage, as baron Amherst of Montreal. On the 23d of January, 1793, he was again appointed to the command of the army in Great Britain; but on the 10th of February, 1795, this veteran and very deserving officer was superceded by his royal highness the duke of York, the second son of the king, who was only in the thirty-first year of his age, and had never seen any actual service. The

government upon this occasion, with a view to sooth the feelings of the venerable general, offered him an earldom, and the rank of Field Marshal, both of which he at that time rejected. The office of Field Marshal, however, he accepted on the 30th of July, 1796. He died at his seat in Kent, August 3d, 1797, aged eighty years.

*American Biography.*



#### NO. VIII.

SAMUEL ARGAL, deputy governor of Virginia, came to that colony in the year 1609, to trade, and to fish for sturgeon. The trade was in violation of the laws, but as the wine and provisions which he brought were much wanted, his conduct was connived at, and he continued to make voyages for his own advantage and in the service of the colony. In the year 1613 he arrived at the island now called Mount Desert, in the district of Maine, for the purpose of fishing, and having discovered a settlement of French, which was made two years before,

he immediately attacked it and took most of the settlers prisoners. Gilbert de Thet, a jesuit father, was killed in the engagement. This was the commencement of hostilities between the French and English colonists in America. Captain Argal soon afterwards sailed from Virginia to Acadie, and destroyed the French settlements of St. Croix and Port Royal.

The pretext for this hostile expedition in time of peace, was the encroachment of the French on the rights of the English, which were founded on the prior discovery of the Cabots. Argal on his return subdued the Dutch settlements at Hudson's river. In the year 1614 he went to England, and returned in 1617 as deputy governor. On his arrival he found the public buildings at Jamestown fallen to decay, the market place and streets planted with tobacco, and the people of the colony dispersed in places which they thought best adapted for the cultivation of that pernicious weed. To restore prosperity to the colony, Argal introduced some severe regulations. He prohibited all trade or familiarity with the Indians. Teaching them the

use of arms was a crime to be punished with death. He ordered that all goods should be sold at an advance of twenty-five per cent., and fixed the price of tobacco at three shillings per pound. None could sell or buy it at a different price under the penalty of three years imprisonment. No man was permitted to fire a gun before a new supply of ammunition, except in self defence, on pain of a year's slavery. Absence from church on Sundays or holy days was punished by confinement for the night and one week's slavery to the colony, and on a repetition of the offence the punishment was increased.

The rigorous execution of these laws rendered Argal odious to the colony, and the report of his tyranny and his depredations upon the revenues of the company reaching England, it was determined to recal him. Lord De la War was despatched to Virginia, with directions to send the delinquent home to answer the charges brought against him; but as his lordship died on the passage, his letter of instructions fell into the hands of Argal. Perceiving from it that the rich harvest which he was gathering would be

soon ended, he redoubled his industry. He multiplied his acts of injustice, and before the arrival of a new governor in 1619, set sail in a vessel loaded with his effects. He was the partner in trade of the earl of Warwick, and by this connexion was enabled to defraud the company of the restitution which they had a right to expect. Nothing more of Argal is known, except that in the year 1620 he commanded a ship of war in an expedition against the Algerines, and that in 1623 he was knighted by king James.

His character, like that of most who were concerned in the government of Virginia, is differently drawn; by some he is represented as a good mariner, a man of public spirit, active, industrious, careful to provide for the people, and to keep them constantly employed; and by others he is described as negligent of the public business, selfish, rapacious, passionate, arbitrary and cruel; and harassing the colonists by every species of extortion and oppression. He was without question a man of talents and art, for he so foiled and perplexed the company, that they were never able to bring him to any account or punishment. *American Biography.*



WILLIAM BERKELEY, governor of Virginia, was born of an ancient family near London, and was educated at Merton college, Oxford, of which he was afterwards a fellow. He was admitted master of arts in the year 1629. In 1630 he travelled in different parts of Europe. He succeeded sir John Hervey in the government of Virginia, about the year 1639. This gentleman had conducted in so arbitrary a manner, that the inhabitants of Virginia seized him and sent him home a prisoner. King Charles restored him, but very soon afterwards recalled him, and appointed in his stead a more just and worthy man, sir William Berkeley. On his arrival he found the country engaged in an Indian war, which much interrupted its prosperity. The war was occasioned by the encroachments of governor Hervey, in the grants of land which he had given. The natives had massacred about five hundred of the colonists, and were still carrying on the work of destruction; but sir William, with a party of horse, surprised the aged Opechancanough, and brought him prisoner to

Jamestown. The Indian emperor was a man of dignified sentiments. One day, when there was a large crowd in his room gazing at him, he called for the governor and said to him, "If it had been my fortune to have taken sir William Berkeley prisoner, I should have disdained to have made a show of him to my people." About a fortnight after he was taken, a brutal soldier shot him through the back, of which wound the old man soon died. A peace was soon afterwards made with the Indians.

During the civil war in England, governor Berkeley took the side of the king, and Virginia was the last of the possessions of England which acknowledged the authority of Cromwell. Severe laws were made against the puritans, though there were none in the colony; commerce was interrupted, and the people were unable to supply themselves with implements of agriculture. It was not till the year 1651, that Virginia was subdued. The parliament had sent a fleet to reduce Barbadoes, and from this place a small squadron was detached under the command of captain Dennis. The Virginians, by the help of

some Dutch vessels which were then in the port, made such resistance that he was obliged to have recourse to other means besides force. He sent word to two of the members of the council, that he had on board a valuable cargo belonging to them, which they must lose, if the protector's authority was not immediately acknowledged. Such dissensions now took place in the colony, that sir William and his friends were obliged to submit on the terms of a general pardon. He however remained in the colony, passing his time in retirement at his own plantation, and observing with satisfaction that the parliament made moderate use of its success, and that none of the Virginia royalists were persecuted for their resistance.

After the death of governor Matthews, who was appointed by Cromwell, the people applied to sir William to resume the government; but he declined complying with their request, unless they would submit themselves again to the authority of the king. Upon their consenting to do this, he resumed his former authority in January 1659; and king Charles II. was proclaimed in

Virginia before his restoration to the throne of England. The death of Cromwell, in the mean time, dissipated from the minds of the colonists the fear of the consequences of their boldness.

After the restoration governor Berkeley received a new commission, and was permitted to go to England and pay his respects to his majesty. During his absence, the deputy governor whom he had appointed in obedience to his orders, collected the laws into one body. The church of England was made the established religion, parishes were regulated, and besides a mansion-house and glebe, a yearly stipend in tobacco to the value of eighty pounds, was settled on the minister. In the year 1662 governor Berkeley returned to Virginia, and in the following year the laws were enforced against the dissenters from the establishment, by which a number of them were driven from the colony.

During Bacon's rebellion he exhibited a suitable regard to the dignity of his station and a firm resolution to support his authority. Peace was afterwards preserved, not so much by the removal of grievances which awakened discon-

tent, as by the arrival of a regiment from England, which remained a long time in the country.

In the year 1677, sir William was induced on account of his ill health to return to England, leaving colonel Jeffries deputy governor. He died soon after his arrival, and before he had seen the king, after an administration of near forty years. He was buried at Twickenham, July 13th, 1677. The assembly of Virginia declared he had been an excellent and well deserving governor. The following extract from his answer, in June 1671, to inquiries of the committee for the colonies, is a curious specimen of his loyalty: " We have forty-eight parishes, and our ministers are well paid, and by my consent should be better, if they would pray oftener and preach less; but as of all other commodities so of this, the worst are sent us, and we have few that we can boast of since the persecution in Cromwell's tyranny drove divers worthy men hither. Yet I thank God there are no free schools, nor printing; and I hope we shall not have these hundred years. For learning has brought disobedience and heresy and sects



into the world, and printing has divulged them, and libels against the best government.”

He published the *Lost Lady*, a tragi-comedy, 1639; and a discourse and view of Virginia, 1663.

*American Biography.*



#### No. X.

NORBORNE BERKELEY, baron de Botetourt, one of the last governors of Virginia while a British colony, obtained the peerage of Botetourt in the year 1764. In July, 1768, he was appointed governor of Virginia, in the place of general Amherst. He died at Williamsburg on the 15th of October 1770, in the fifty-third year of his age. At his death the government, in consequence of the resignation of the honourable John Blair, devolved upon the honourable William Nelson, until the appointment in December of lord Dunmore, then governor of New York.

Lord Botetourt seems to have been highly and deservedly respected in Virginia. His ex-

ertions to promote the interests of William and Mary college, were zealous and unremitted. He instituted an annual contest among the students for two elegant golden medals of the value of five guineas; one for the best Latin oration on a given subject, and the other for superiority in mathematical science. For a long time he sanctioned by his presence morning and evening prayers in the college. No company nor avocation prevented his attendance on this service. He was extremely fond of literary characters. No one of this class who had the least claims to respect, was ever presented to him without receiving his encouragement.

*American Biography.*



No. XI.

R. BEVERLY, a native of Virginia, published a history of that colony at London in the year 1705, in four parts, embracing the first settlement of Virginia and the government thereof to the time when it was written; the natural pro-

ductions and conveniences of the country, suited to trade and improvement; the native Indians, their religion, their laws and customs; and the state of the country, as to the policy of the government and the improvements of the land. Another edition was published with Gribelin's cuts, 8vo. 1722. This work in the historical narration is as concise and unsatisfactory, as the history of Stith is prolix and tedious.

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No. XII.

JAMES BLAIR, first president of William and Mary college, Virginia, and a learned divine, was born and educated in Scotland, where he obtained a benefice in the Episcopal church. On account of the unsettled state of religion, which then existed in that kingdom, he quitted his preferments and went into England near the reign of Charles II. The bishop of London prevailed on him to go to Virginia as a missionary, about the year 1685; and in that colony, by his exemplary conduct and unwearied labours in

the work of the ministry, he much promoted religion and gained to himself esteem and reputation. In the year 1689 he was appointed by the bishop ecclesiastical commissary, the highest office in the church which could be given him in the province. This appointment did not however induce him to relinquish the pastoral office, for it was his delight to preach the gospel of salvation.

Perceiving that the want of schools and seminaries for literary and religious instruction would in a great degree defeat the exertions which were making in order to propagate the gospel, he formed the design of establishing a college at Williamsburg. For this purpose he solicited benefactions in this country, and by direction of the assembly made a voyage to England, in the year 1691, to obtain the patronage of the government. A charter was procured in this year, with liberal endowments, and he was named in it the first president; but it does not appear that he entered on the duties of his office before the year 1729, from which period till 1742, he discharged them with faithfulness. The college,

however, did not flourish very greatly during his presidency, nor for many years afterwards. The wealthy farmers were in the habit of sending their sons to Europe for their education. After a life of near sixty years in the ministry, he died in a good old age, on the first of August 1743, and went to enjoy the glory for which he was destined.

Mr. Blair was for some time president of the council of the colony, and rector of Williamsburg. He was a faithful labourer in the vineyard of his master, and an ornament to his profession, and to the several offices which he sustained.

He published “ Our Saviour’s divine sermon on the mount explained, and the practice of it recommended, in divers sermons and discourses,” 4 vols. 8vo. London 1742. This work is spoken of with high approbation by Dr. Doddridge, and by Dr. Williams in his *Christian Preacher*.

*American Biography.*



## No. XIII.

JOHN BLAIR, one of the associate judges of the supreme court of the United States, died at Williamsburg in Virginia, on the 31st of August 1800, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. He was a judge of the court of appeals in Virginia, in the year 1787, at which time the legislature of that state, finding the judiciary system inconvenient, established circuit courts, the duties of which they directed the judges of the court of appeals to perform. These judges, among whose names are those of Blair, Pendleton and Wythe, remonstrated, and declared the act unconstitutional. In the same year, 1787, he was a member of the general convention, which formed the constitution of the United States. To that instrument the names of Blair and Madison are affixed as the deputies from Virginia. In September 1789, when the government which he had assisted in establishing had commenced its operation, he was appointed by Washington an associate judge of the supreme court, of which John Jay was chief justice.

Judge Blair was an amiable, accomplished, and truly virtuous man. He discharged with ability and integrity the duties of a number of the highest and most important trusts; and in these, as well as in the several relations of private life, his conduct was so upright and blameless, that he seldom or never lost a friend or made an enemy. Even calumny, which assailed Washington, shrunk from his friend, the unassuming and pious Blair. Through life he in a remarkable manner experienced the truth of our Saviour's declaration, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth;" and at death he illustrated the force of the exclamation, "let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." *American Biography.*



#### No. XIV.

THEODERICK BLAND, a worthy patriot and statesman, was a native of Virginia, and descended from an ancient and respectable family in that state. He was bred to the science of

physic, but upon the commencement of the revolution he quitted the practice, and took an active part in the cause of his country. He soon rose to the rank of colonel, and had the command of a regiment of dragoons. While in the army he frequently signalized himself by brilliant actions. In the year 1779 he was appointed to the command of the convention troops at Albemarle barracks in Virginia, and continued in that situation till some time in 1780, when he was elected to a seat in congress. He continued in that body three years, the time allowed by the confederation. After the expiration of this term he again returned to Virginia, and was chosen a member of the state legislature. He opposed the adoption of the federal constitution, believing it to be repugnant to the interests of his country, and was in the minority that voted against its ratification. But when it was at length adopted, he submitted to the voice of the majority. He was chosen to represent the district in which he lived, in the first congress under the constitution. He died at New York on the 1st

of June 1790, while attending a session of congress, in the forty-ninth year of his age.

*American Biography.*

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No. XV.

EDWARD BRADDOCK, major-general and commander in chief of the British forces in America, arrived in Virginia with two regiments from Ireland, in February 1755. The plan of military operations having been settled in April, by a convention of the several governors at Alexandria, he undertook to conduct in person the expedition against Fort Du Quesne. Meeting with much delay from the necessity of opening roads, the general determined to advance with rapidity at the head of twelve hundred men, leaving the heavy baggage to the care of colonel Dunbar, who was to follow by slow and easy marches. He reached the Monongahela on the 8th of July. The succeeding day he expected to invest the fort. He accordingly made his dispositions in the morning. He was advised

to advance the provincial companies in front, for the purpose of scouring the woods, and discovering any ambuscade which might be formed for him. But he held both his enemy and the provincials in too much contempt to follow this salutary counsel. Three hundred British regulars composed his van, which was suddenly attacked, at the distance of about seven miles from the fort, by an invisible enemy, concealed by the high grass. The whole army was soon thrown into confusion. The brave general exerted his utmost powers to form his broken troops, under a galling fire, upon the very ground where they were first attacked; but his efforts were fruitless. With such an enemy, in such a situation, it was necessary to have advanced or retreated. All his officers on horseback, except his aid the late general Washington, were killed; and after losing three horses, he received a mortal wound.

The defeated army fled precipitately to the camp of Dunbar, near forty miles distant, where Braddock, who was brought off the ground in a tumbril, expired of his wounds. Sixty-four out



of eighty-five officers, and about half the privates were killed and wounded, making in the whole about seven hundred men. This disaster resulted from the contempt of good advice.

*American Biography.*

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No. XVI.

WILLIAM BYRD, a native of Virginia, died about the middle of the last century. He was liberally educated in Great Britain, and possessed a very ample estate. Few persons in America ever collected so large and valuable a library, as he left. He was a very ardent friend to the diffusion of knowledge, and freely opened his library to the use of all who sought information. He published several small tracts.

*American Biography.*

## No. XVII.

GEORGE CALVERT, baron of Baltimore, founder of the province of Maryland, was descended from a noble family in Flanders, and was born at Kipling in Yorkshire, England, in the year 1582. After taking his bachelor's degree at Trinity college, Oxford, in 1597, he travelled over the continent of Europe. At his return to England, in the beginning of the reign of James I., he was taken into the office of sir Robert Cecil, secretary of state, by whose favour he was made clerk of the privy council, and received the honour of knighthood. In 1619 he was appointed one of the principal secretaries of state, in the room of sir Thomas Lake. His great knowledge of public business, and his diligence and fidelity, conciliated the regard of the king, who gave him a pension of a thousand pounds, out of the customs.

In the year 1624 he became a Roman catholic, and having disclosed his new principles to the king, resigned his office. He was continued however a member of the privy council, and was created baron of Baltimore in the king-

dom of Ireland in 1625, at which time he represented the university of Oxford in parliament.

While secretary of state he was constituted, by patent, proprietor of the south-eastern peninsula of Newfoundland, which he named the province of Avalon. He spent twenty-five thousand pounds in advancing his plantation, and visited it twice in person; but it was so annoyed by the French that, though he once repulsed and pursued their ships and took sixty prisoners, he was obliged to abandon it. Being still inclined to form a settlement in America, whither he might retire with his family and friends, of the same religious principles, he made a visit to Virginia, the fertility and advantages of which province had been highly celebrated, and in which he had been interested as one of the adventurers. But meeting with an unwelcome reception on account of his religion, and observing that the Virginians had not extended their plantations beyond the Potowmack, he fixed his attention upon the territory northward of this river, and as soon as he returned to England, ob-

tained a grant of it from Charles I; but owing to the tedious forms of public business, before a patent was completed, he died at London, on the 15th of April 1632, in the fifty-first year of his age. After his death the patent again was drawn in the name of his eldest son, Cecil, who succeeded to his honours, and it passed the seals on the 20th of June 1632. The country was called Maryland, in honour of Henrietta Maria, the queen consort of Charles I. From the great precision of this charter, the powers it confers on the proprietor, and the privileges and exemptions which it grants to the people, it is evident it was written by sir George himself. The liberal code of religious toleration which it established, is very honourable to him, and was respected by his son, who carried his design into execution.

Sir George was conspicuous for his good sense and moderation. All parties were pleased with him. Not being obstinate in his opinions, he took as much pleasure in hearing the sentiments of others, as in delivering his own. In his views of establishing foreign plantations, he

thought that the original inhabitants, instead of being exterminated, should be converted and civilized; that the governors should not be interested merchants, but gentlemen not concerned in trade; and that every one should be left to provide for himself by his own industry, without dependence on a common interest.

He published *Carmen Funebre* in D. Hen. Untonum, 1596. Parliamentary Speeches; various letters of state; the Answer of Tom Tell Troth; the Practice of Princes; and the Lamentation of the Kirk, 1642. He also wrote something respecting Maryland, but it is thought it was never printed. *American Biography.*



#### No. XVIII.

WILLIAM DARKE, a brave officer during the American war, was born in Philadelphia county in the year 1736, and when a boy, accompanied his parents to Virginia. In the nineteenth year of his age he joined the army under general Braddock, and shared in the dangers of



his defeat, in 1755. In the beginning of the war with Great Britain he accepted a captain's commission, and served with great reputation till the close of the war, at which time he held the rank of major. In 1791 he received from congress the command of a regiment in the army under general St. Clair, and bore a distinguished part in the unfortunate battle with the Indians on the 4th of November in the same year. In this battle he lost a favourite son, and narrowly escaped with his own life. In his retirement during his last years, he enjoyed the confidence of the state which had adopted him, and was honoured with the rank of major-general of the militia. He died at his seat in Jefferson county, November 26th, 1801, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

*American Biography.*



#### No. XIX.

WILLIAM GRAYSON, a senator of the United States, was a native of the state of Virginia, and was appointed a representative to congress from

that state in the year 1784, and continued a number of years. In June 1788, he was a member of the Virginia convention which was called for the purpose of considering the present constitution of the United States. In this assembly, rendered illustrious by men of the first talents, he was very conspicuous. His genius united with the eloquence of Henry, in opposing the adoption of the constitution. While he acknowledged the evils of the old government, he was afraid that the proposed government would destroy the liberty of the states. His principal objections to it were, that it took from the states the sole right of direct taxation, which was the highest act of sovereignty; that the limits between the national and state authorities were not sufficiently defined, that they might clash, in which case the general government would prevail; that there was no provision against raising such a navy, as was more than sufficient to protect our trade, and thus would excite the jealousy of European powers, and lead to war; and that there were no adequate checks against the abuse of power, especially by the president,

who was responsible only to his counsellors and partners in crime, the members of the senate.

After the constitution was adopted, Mr. Grayson was appointed one of the senators from Virginia, in the year 1789; his colleague was Richard Henry Lee. He died at Dumfries, whither he had come on his way to the congress, March 12th, 1790, and his remains were deposited in the family vault at the reverend Mr. Spence Grayson's.

His great abilities were united with unimpeached integrity. *American Biography.*



#### No. XX.

RICHARD HENRY LEE, president of congress, was a native of Virginia, and from his earliest youth devoted his talents to the service of his country. His public life was distinguished by some remarkable circumstances. He had the honour of originating the first resistance to British oppression in the time of the stamp act in 1765. He proposed in the Virginia

house of burgesses, in 1773, the formation of a committee of correspondence, whose object was to disseminate information, and to kindle the flame of liberty throughout the continent. He was a member of the first congress, and it was he who proposed and ably supported the motion for declaring the colonies free and independent, on the 7th of June, 1776. After the adoption of the articles of the confederation, he was under the necessity of withdrawing from congress, as no representative was allowed to continue in congress more than three years, in any term of six years; but he was re-elected in the year 1784, and continued till 1787. It was in November 1784, that he was chosen president of congress. When the constitution of the United States was submitted to the consideration of the public, he contended for the necessity of amendments, previously to its adoption. After the government was organised, he and Mr. Grayson were chosen the first senators from Virginia, in the year 1789. This station he held till his resignation in 1792, when John Taylor was appointed in his place. Mr. Lee

died at his seat at Chantilly, in Westmoreland county, Virginia, June 22d, 1794, in the sixty-third year of his age. He supported through life the character of a philosopher, a patriot, and a sage; and he died as he had lived, blessing his country. The petition to the king, which was adopted by the congress in the year 1774, and was admirably well drawn up, has been generally attributed to his pen. A letter, which he wrote against Deane, is published in the Virginia Gazette of January 1st, and the Independent Chronicle of February 11th, 1779.

He is supposed to have been the author of "Observations leading to a fair examination of the system of government proposed by the late convention, in letters from the federal farmer to the republican." *American Biography.*



ARTHUR LEE, M. D., minister of the United States to the court of Versailles, was a native of Virginia, and the brother of Richard Henry Lee. He was educated at the university of Edinburgh, where he also pursued, for some time, the study of medicine. On his return to this country, he practised physic four or five years in Williamsburg. He then went to London, and commenced the study of the law in the Temple. During his residence in England he kept his eye on the measures of government, and rendered the most important services to his country, by sending to America the earliest intelligence of the plans of the ministry. When the instructions to governor Bernard were sent over, he at the same time communicated information to the town of Boston respecting the nature of them. He returned, it is believed, before 1769, for in that year he published the Monitor's Letters, in vindication of the colonial rights. In 1775 he was in London, as the agent of Virginia; and he presented, in August, the second petition of congress to the king. All his exertions were now

directed to the good of his country. When Mr. Jefferson declined the appointment of a minister to France, Dr. Lee was appointed to his place, and he joined his colleagues, Dr. Franklin and Mr. Deane, at Paris, in December 1776. He assisted in negotiating the treaty with France. In the year 1779, he and Mr. Adams, who had taken the place of Deane, were recalled, and Dr. Franklin was appointed sole minister to France. His return had been rendered necessary by the malicious accusations with which Deane had assailed his public conduct.

In the preceding year Deane had left Paris, agreeably to an order of congress, and came to this country in the same ship with the French minister Gerard. On his arrival, as many suspicions hovered around him, he thought it necessary to repel them, by attacking the character of his colleague Dr. Lee. In an inflammatory address to the public he vilified him in the grossest terms, charging him with obstructing the alliance with France, and disclosing the secrets of congress to British noblemen. He at the same time impeached the conduct of his

brother, William Lee, Esq., agent for congress at the courts of Vienna and Berlin. Dr. Lee also was not on very good terms with Dr. Franklin, whom he believed to be too much under the influence of the French court. Firm in his attachment to the interest of his country, honest, zealous, he was inclined to question the correctness of all the commercial transactions in which the philosopher had been engaged. These dissensions among the ministers produced corresponding divisions in congress; and Monsieur Gerard had so little respect for the dignity of an ambassador, as to become a zealous partisan of Deane. Dr. Lee had many friends in congress, but Dr. Franklin more. When the former returned to America in the year 1780, such was his integrity, that he did not find it difficult to reinstate himself fully in the good opinion of the public. In 1784 he was appointed one of the commissioners for holding a treaty with the Indians of the Six Nations. He accordingly went to Fort Schuyler, and executed this trust in a manner which did him much honour. In February 1790 he was ad-

mitted a counsellor of the supreme court of the United States, by a special order. After a short illness, he died, December 14th, 1792, at Urbanna, in Middlesex county, Virginia. He was a man of uniform patriotism, of a sound understanding, of great probity, of plain manners, and strong passions.

During his residence for a number of years in England, he was indefatigable in his exertions to promote the interests of his country. To the abilities of a statesman he united the acquisitions of a scholar. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society. Besides the Monitor's Letters, written in the year 1769, which have been mentioned, he published "Extracts from a letter to congress in answer to a libel by Silas Deane," 1780; and "Observations on certain commercial transactions in France," laid before congress 1780.

*American Biography.*

## No. XXII.

JOHN MITCHELL, M.D. F.R.S., a botanist and physician, came from England to Virginia in the former part of the last century. His residence was chiefly at Urbanna, a small town on the Rappahannock, about seventy-three miles from Richmond. He appears to have been a man of observation, acuteness, and enterprise, as well as learning. He was a great botanist, and seems to have paid particular attention to the Hybrid productions. He wrote, in the year 1743, the causes of the different colours of people in different climates, which was published in the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. 43. He attributes the difference of the human complexions to the same causes which have been assigned by the reverend Dr. Smith, viz. the influence of climate and modes of life; and he thinks that the whites have degenerated more from the original complexion in Noah and his family, than the Indians or even negroes. The colour of the decendants of Ham, he considers a blessing, rather than a curse, as without it they could not well inhabit Africa.



He also published an essay on the preparations and uses of the various kinds of potash, in the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. 45; a letter concerning electrical cohesion in Vol. 51; and a useful work on the general principles of botany, containing descriptions of a number of new genera of plants, 4to. 1769. It is believed that he was also the author of the map of North America, published in the year 1755, which was accompanied by a large pamphlet, entitled "The contest in America;" and followed by another, "The present state of Great Britain and America," 1767. His manuscripts on the yellow fever, as it appeared in Virginia in the year 1742, fell into the hands of Dr. Franklin, by whom they were communicated to Dr. Rush.

*American Biography.*

## No. XXIII.

THOMAS NELSON, governor of Virginia, was a distinguished patriot of the revolution, and uniformly attached to liberty. When Virginia was threatened to be made the theatre of war, he was appointed general by the legislature, and he took the field at the head of his countrymen. He was chosen governor in the year 1781. The officers at the siege of York witnessed his merit, and his attachment to civil religious liberty. He died in February 1789.

*American Biography.*

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## No. XXIV.

PEYTON RANDOLPH, first president of congress, was a native of Virginia, of which colony he was attorney-general as early as the year 1756. In that year he formed a company of a hundred gentlemen, who engaged as volunteers against the Indians. He was afterwards speaker of the house of burgesses. Being appointed one of the deputies to the first congress, in

1774, he was on the 5th of September elected its president. He was also chosen president of the second congress, May 10th, 1775; but on the 24th, as he was obliged to return to Virginia, Mr. Hancock was placed in the chair. Mr. Randolph afterwards took his seat again in congress. He died at Philadelphia of an apoplectic fit, October 22d, 1775, aged fifty-two years.

*American Biography.*



**SKETCH**  
**OF THE**  
**HISTORY OF THE CHURCH**  
**IN VIRGINIA.**



1870  
The first of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The second of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The third of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The fourth of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The fifth of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

# SKETCH

## OF THE

### HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

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THE following sketch of the ecclesiastical history of Virginia, is from the pen of the present learned and venerable president of Hampden Sydney college. I regret that it did not come to hand in time to be inserted in the body of the work. The affairs of the church make an important part of the history of most nations, and afford no less a subject of meditation to the philosopher, than a lesson of instruction to the christian. Religion, unrestrained by law, and untrammelled by superstition, promotes the best interests of the government, and secures the real happiness of the subject. Its doctrines derive not their influence from the aid of civil authority, nor can the arm of secular power impede their progress or prevent their efficacy. It belongs to government to protect the religion of every sect, without wishing to control the opinions of any.

Such is the present happy state of our country, where no monopoly of civil rights or religious privileges belongs to any sect, or is the reward of any tenets. Here the church may flourish, careless of the flattery of her friends, and fearless of the frowns of her enemies.

May 24th, 1813.

Dear Sir,

In the history of Virginia which you are about to publish, a brief sketch of the affairs of the church may, I think, with propriety be allowed a place. And this sketch I shall, agreeably to your request, undertake to furnish. But so very defective are my materials for a work of this nature, that it will not be in my power to do justice to the interesting subject.

At the first settlement of this country by the English, the Episcopal church was established by law; and severe penalties were enacted against non-conformists to the established worship.

That there is a very intimate connexion between the civil and religious interests of any government, will readily be conceded. The duties which we owe to the country in which we live, we also owe to God from whom we have derived our existence. Nor is it possible for any one to conduct himself as it becomes a christian, without being at the same time a good citizen of the commonwealth. But these great interests ought always to be preserved entirely distinct.

As a sense of religious obligation is eminently condu-

cive to the well-being of civil society, it is certainly the duty of the civil magistrate to cherish that sense by all proper means. But he has no right to select as the favourites of government any denomination of the clergy, and to provide for their support at the common expense. Much less can he have a right to require any one to worship the Creator in a way that does not accord with the dictates of his own conscience. Instead of such invidious distinctions, the civil magistrate ought to be the common protector of all, without distinction, who demean themselves as good citizens of the commonwealth. And such is, at present, the case in our highly favoured country.

At the American revolution the Episcopal establishment was abolished, and religious liberty suffered to remain upon its own proper base.

This reverse in the state of the Episcopal church was, it is affirmed by a respectable writer of that communion, attended with some very serious disadvantages. Ultimately however it will, we have reason to believe, be highly conducive to the interests of genuine religion. Already have we seen a new and striking proof that the gospel of Christ is not dependent upon the arm of civil government for its support. Truth, when left thus open to a free and impartial investigation, will, it may be presumed, prevail. And now that all just ground of envy and jealousy among the different denominations has been removed, it may reasonably be expected that they will

follow with more attention and success the things that make for peace.

It is not uncommon for ecclesiastical historians to obtrude upon the world, and that under the imposing name of *church history*, a pompous account of the pride, the luxury, and other vices of faithless ecclesiastics, together with the contests and wars which they are said to have engendered or fomented. This however is, in my opinion, neither candid nor just. In this way many groundless prejudices have, there is reason to believe, been excited against the religion of Jesus Christ. For the faults of *real members* the church is indeed accountable. But the crimes of such as are christians only in *name*, belong to a very different class—to the world, and not to the church.—The proper subject of church history is the kingdom of Jesus Christ upon earth, and not the kingdoms of this world, or the lives or opinions of the children of this world, by what name soever they may choose to be distinguished.

The earliest authentic account in my possession of the state of vital piety in our country, is contained in a letter from the Rev. Samuel Davis, then minister of the gospel at Hanover, to Dr. Bellamy of New England. This interesting communication is dated June 28th, 1751; and from it I have taken the liberty to make the following extracts.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

If the publication of the rise, progress, and present situation of religion in Virginia may not only gratify good people, but (as you give me reason to hope) animate their prayers for us, and encourage preachers to come into these parts, I should charge myself with a criminal neglect if I refused to publish the marvellous works of the Lord among us. I hope I may observe without the umbrage of calumny, what is but too evident among serious people of all denominations among us, that religion has been, and in most parts of the colony still is, in a very low state. A surprising negligence in attending public worship, and an equally surprising levity and unconcernedness among those that attend. Family religion a rarity, and a solemn concern about eternal things a greater. Vices of various kinds triumphant, and even a form of godliness not common.—But universal fame makes it needless for me to enlarge upon this disagreeable subject. Before the revival in 1743, there were a few who were awakened, as they have told me, either by their own serious reflections, suggested and enforced by divine energy, or on reading some authors of the last century, particularly Bolton, Baxter, Flavel, Bunyan.—There was one Mr. Samuel Morris, who had for some time been very anxious about his own salvation, who after obtaining blessed relief in Christ, became zealous for the salvation of his neigh-



bours, and very earnest to use means to awaken them. This was the tendency of his conversation; and he also read to them such authors as had been most useful to himself, particularly Luther on the Galatians, and his table discourses, and several pieces of honest Bunyan's. By these means some of his neighbours were made more thoughtful about their souls; but the concern was not very extensive. I have prevailed on my good friend just now named, who was the principal private instrument of promoting the late work, and therefore well acquainted with it, to write me a narrative of its rise and progress, and this, together with what he and others have told me, I shall present to you without any material alteration.—In the year 1740, Mr. Whitefield had preached at Williamsburg at the invitation of Mr. Blair, our late commissary. But we being sixty miles distant from Williamsburg, he left the colony before we had an opportunity of hearing him. But in the year 1743, a young gentleman from Scotland had got a book of his sermons, preached in Glasgow, and taken from his mouth in short hand, which after I had read with great benefit, I invited my neighbours to come and hear it; and the plainness and fervency of these discourses being attended with the power of the Lord, many were convinced of their undone condition, and constrained to seek deliverance with the greatest solicitude. A considerable number met to hear these sermons, every Sabbath, and frequently on week days. The concern of some was so

passionate and violent, that they could not avoid crying out and weeping bitterly, &c.; and that when such indications of religious concern were so strange and ridiculous, that they could not be occasioned by example or sympathy, and the affectation of them would be so unprofitable an instance of hypocrisy, that none could be tempted to it. My dwelling house at length was too small to contain the people, whereupon we determined to build a meeting-house, merely for reading. And having never been used to social extempore prayer, none of us durst attempt it. By this single mean severals were awakened; and their conduct ever since is a proof of the continuance and happy issue of their impressions. When the report was spread abroad, I was invited to several places to read these sermons, at a considerable distance, and by this means the concern was propagated. About this time our absenting ourselves from the established church, contrary, as was alleged, to the laws of the land, was taken notice of, and we were called upon by the court to assign our reasons for it, and to declare what denomination we were of. As we knew but little of any denomination of dissenters, except Quakers, we were at a loss what name to assume. At length recollecting that Luther was a noted reformer, and that his books had been of special service to us, we declared ourselves Lutherans; and thus we continued until Providence sent us the Rev. Mr. William Robinson. This Mr. Robinson was a zealous laborious minister of Christ, who by the

permission of the presbytery took a journey through the new settlements of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina.—His labours were extensively blest.—On the sixth of July, 1743, he preached his first sermon to us from Luke xiii. 3, and continued with us preaching four days successively. The congregation was large the first day, and vastly increased the three ensuing. It is hard for the imagination to form an image of the condition of the assembly on these glorious days of the Son of Man. Such of us as had been hungering for the word before, were lost in an agreeable surprise and astonishment. We were overwhelmed with the thoughts of the unexpected goodness of God, in allowing us to hear the gospel preached in a manner that surpassed our hopes. Many that came through curiosity were pricked to the heart, and but few in the numerous assemblies on these four days appeared unaffected. They returned alarmed with apprehensions of their dangerous condition, convinced of their former entire ignorance of religion, and anxiously inquiring what they should do to be saved. And there is reason to believe there was as much good done by these four sermons, as by all the sermons preached in these parts before or since. Before Mr. Robinson left us, he successfully endeavoured to correct some of our mistakes, and to bring us to carry on the worship of God more regularly at our meetings. After this we met to read good sermons, and began and concluded with prayer and singing psalms, which till then we had omitted.

The blessing of God remarkably attended these more private means, and it was really astonishing to observe the solemn impressions begun or continued in many by hearing good discourses read. Soon after Mr. Robinson left us, Mr. John Blair paid us a visit, and truly he came to us in the fulness of the gospel of Christ. Former impressions were refined, and new ones made on many hearts. One night in particular a whole houseful of people were quite overcome with the power of the word, particularly of one pungent sentence.

Some time after this the Rev. Mr. Roan was sent us by the presbytery of Newcastle. He continued with us longer than any of the former, and the happy effects of his ministrations are still apparent. He was instrumental in beginning and promoting a religious concern in several places where there was little appearance of it before. This, together with his speaking pretty freely about the degeneracy of the clergy in this colony, gave a general alarm, and some measures were concerted to suppress us. To incense the indignation of the government the more, a perfidious wretch deposed that he heard Mr. Roan utter blasphemous expressions in his sermons. An indictment was therefore drawn up against Mr. Roan (though by that time he had departed) and some who had invited him to preach at their houses were cited to appear before the general court, and two of them were fined. Six witnesses were cited to prove the indictment against Mr. Roan, but their depositions were in his

favour. And the witness who accused him of blasphemy, when he heard of the arrival of Messrs. Tennent and Finley, fled, and has not returned since, so that the indictment was dropped. But I had reason to fear being banished from the colony, and all circumstances seemed to threaten the extirpation of religion among the dissenters in these parts. In these difficulties, having no person of a public character to appear in our favour, we were determined to acquaint the synod of New York with our case. Accordingly four of us went to the synod, May 1745, when the Lord favoured us with success. The synod drew up an address to our governor, the honourable sir William Gooch, and sent it with Messrs. Tennent and Finley, who were received by the governor with respect, and had liberty granted them to preach among us. By this means the dreadful cloud was scattered for a while, and our languid hopes revived. They continued with us about a week, and though the deluge of passion in which we were at first overwhelmed, was by this time somewhat abated, yet much good was done by their ministry. The people of God were refreshed, and several careless sinners were awakened. Some that had trusted before in their moral conduct, and religious duties, were convinced of the depravity of their nature, and the necessity of regeneration, though indeed there were but few unregenerate persons among us at that time, that could claim so regular a character, the most part indulging themselves in criminal liberties, being remiss



in the duties of religion, which, alas! is too commonly the case still in such parts of the colony as the late revival did not extend to. After they left us we continued vacant for a considerable time, and kept up our meetings for reading and prayer in several places, and the Lord favoured us with his presence. I was again repeatedly presented and fined in court for absenting myself from church, and holding unlawful meetings, as they were called; but the bush flourished in the flames. The next that were appointed to supply us, were the Rev. Messrs. William Tennent and Samuel Blair. They administered the Lord's supper among us; and we have reason to remember it as a most glorious day of the Son of Man. The assembly was large, and the novelty of the manner of the administration did peculiarly engage the attention. It appeared as one of the days of heaven to some of us; and we could hardly help wishing we could, with Joshua, have delayed the revolutions of the heavens, to prolong it. After Messrs. Tennent and Blair were gone, Mr. Whitefield came and preached for us five days, which was the happy means of giving us farther encouragement and engaging others to the Lord, especially among the church people, who received the gospel more readily from him than from ministers of the presbyterian denomination. After his departure we were destitute of a minister, and followed our usual method of reading and prayer at our meetings, till the Rev. Mr. Davis, our present pastor, was sent us by the presbytery, to supply us



a few weeks in the spring of 1747, when our discouragements from the government were renewed and multiplied; for upon a Lord's day a proclamation was set up at our meeting-house, strictly requiring all magistrates to suppress and prohibit, as far as they lawfully could, all itinerant preachers, &c., which occasioned us to forbear reading that day, until we had time to deliberate and consult what was expedient to do. But how joyfully were we surprised before the next Sabbath; we unexpectedly heard that Mr. Davis was come to preach so long among us, and especially that he had qualified himself according to law, and obtained the licensing of four meeting houses among us, which had never been done before. Thus, men's extremity is the Lord's opportunity. For this seasonable interposition of Divine Providence, we desire to offer our grateful praises, and we importune the friends of Zion to concur with us.

Thus far Mr. Morris's narrative. Then the Rev. Mr. Davis proceeds to give account of the state of their affairs since he came among them, in April, 1747.

Upon my arrival, I petitioned the general court to grant me a license to officiate in and about Hanover, at four meeting-houses, which after some delay, was granted, on my qualifying according to the act of toleration. I preached frequently in Hanover and some of the adjacent counties, and though the fervor of the late work was considerably abated, and my labours were not blessed with success equal to those of my brethren, yet I

have reason to hope they were of service in several instances. The importunities they used with me to settle with them were invincible, and upon my departure they sent a call for me to the presbytery.

After I returned from Virginia, I spent near a year under melancholy and consumptive languishments, expecting death. In the spring of 1748, I began slowly to recover, though I then looked upon it only as the intermission of a disorder that would finally prove mortal. But upon the arrival of a messenger from Hanover, I put my life in my hand, and determined to accept of their call, hoping that I might live to prepare the way for some more useful successor, and willing to expire under the fatigues of duty rather than in voluntary negligence. The honourable sir William Gooch, our late governor, always discovered a ready disposition to allow us all claimable privileges, and the greatest aversion to persecuting measures; but considering the shocking reports spread abroad concerning us by officious malignants, it was no great wonder that the council discovered considerable reluctance to tolerate us. Had it not been for this, I persuade myself they would have shown themselves the guardians of our legal privileges, as well as generous patriots to their country, which is the general character given of them.

My congregation is very much dispersed. Were they all compactly situate in one county, they would be sufficient for three congregations. Many of the church people

also attend. This I looked upon at first as mere curiosity after novelty, but as it continues, and in some places seems to increase, I cannot but look upon it as a happy token of their being at length thoroughly engaged. And I have the greater reason to hope so now, as experience has confirmed my former hopes; fifty or sixty families having thus been happily entangled in the net of the gospel by their own curiosity, or some such motive. There are about three hundred communicants in my congregation, of whom the greatest number are, in the judgment of rational charity, real Christians. Besides some, who, through excessive scrupulousness, do not seek admission to the Lord's Table. There is also a number of negroes. Sometimes I see an hundred and more among my hearers. I have had as satisfying evidences of the sincere piety of severals of them, as ever I had from any person in my life; and their artless simplicity, their passionate aspirations after Christ, their incessant endeavours to know and do the will of God, have charmed me. But alas! while my charge is so extensive I cannot take sufficient pains with them for their instruction, which often oppresses my heart. There have been instances of unhappy apostacy among us, but blessed be God, not many in proportion to the number brought under concern. At present there are few under promising impressions, but, in general a lamentable security prevails. Oh for a little reviving in our bondage!

I might have given you a particular account of the

conversion of some persons here, as indeed there are some uncommon instances of it; but I shall only observe in general, that abstracting from particular circumstances, the work of conversion has been carried on in such steps as are described by experimental divines, as Allein, Shepherd, Stoddard, Flavel, &c. And nothing confirms me more in the truth of their opinion concerning experimental piety, than this agreement and uniformity as to the substance, in the exercises of those who can make the fairest claim to saving grace.

There is one Isaac Oliver here, whose history, could I write it intelligibly to you, would be very entertaining. He has been deaf and dumb from his birth, and yet I have the utmost reason to believe he is truly gracious, and also acquainted with most of the doctrines, and many of the historical facts of the Bible. I have seen him represent the crucifixion of Christ in such significant signs, that I could not but understand them. I have seen him converse in signs about the love and sufferings of Christ, till he has been transported into earnestness, and dissolved in tears.

Thus, dear sir, I have given you a brief account of what I am persuaded you will readily own to be a work of the Lord. We claim no infallibility, but we must not fall into scepticism. If we could form no judgment of such a work, why should we pretend to promote the conversion of men, if we cannot have a satisfying knowledge of it when it appears. Indeed the evidence of

its divinity here is so irresistible, that it has extorted an acknowledgment from some, from whom it would scarcely have been suspected. Were you, sir, a narrow bigot, you would, no doubt, rejoice to hear that there are now some hundreds of dissenters in a place, where, a few years ago there were not ten; but I assure myself of your congratulations on a nobler account, because a considerable number of perishing sinners is gained to the blessed Redeemer, with whom, though you may never see them here, you may spend a blissful eternity. After all, poor Virginia demands your compassion, for religion at present is but like the cloud which Elijah's servant saw. Oh that it may spread and cover the land.

On the west side of the Blue Ridge, a large proportion of the first settlers were dissenters. Nor did they, as far as I can learn, ever meet with any serious obstructions from government. The Rev. Messrs. John Hoge, John Craig, and John Brown were, I think, the first Presbyterian ministers who settled there. You do not however, I believe, either expect or wish from me a detail of the churches of this description with an account of the state of religion in each.

About twenty-five years ago, there was among the churches of that denomination, a very considerable revival, the fruits of which are still visible in our country. In promoting this work, Mr. John Smith, in whose charge it is said to have taken its rise, was the most distinguished instrument. Mr. William Graham also,



Messrs. Devercaux, Jarratt, and Archibald M<sup>r</sup>Robert,\* are entitled in this view to very respectful notice, as will appear from the following extracts, from the life of the former.

“ The genuine doctrines of the gospel, when preached in due order, and inculcated with any just degree of animation and *pathos*, seldom fail in producing good effects, more or less. I had the exquisite pleasure of seeing this realized among the people of my charge, before I had laboured very long. The religious concern among the people of Bath, soon enlarged the bounds of my labours. Such a work could not be confined to a corner. It gives me pleasure now to review these happy times, and the many precious reviving seasons, when the spirit was poured out from on high, and such a number of souls was gathered into the fold of the Great Sheperd. Several such seasons took place between the years 1764 and 1772. In the course of these years a great many souls were, in the judgment of charity, savingly converted to God, and obtained remission of sins by faith in Jesus Christ. Thus commenced the enlargement of my bounds of preaching, which in process of time extended to the circle of five or six hundred miles east, west, north, and south.

“ It has been intimated already, that at my first settlement in this parish, I knew of no minister of the

\* Mr. Holt also, it is probable, ought to be added to this catalogue, but I am not acquainted with his history.



established church, who was like minded with myself, respecting the doctrines I preached, and my manner of preaching them. I stood alone for some time. But in a few years I became acquainted with a neighbouring clergyman,\* in whom some good thing was found. He had great gifts for the pulpit, and spoke with a degree animation very unusual in his time.

“In him I found a dear brother, and a faithful fellow-labourer in the Lord. We frequently travelled together, and preached in each other’s churches, especially on sacramental occasions. Our joint labours on these and many other occasions, I trust, were not in vain in the Lord.

“Religion revived on all hands and spread abundantly. The number of communicants increased to nine hundred or one thousand.”†

As the Baptists and Methodists have published to the world, histories of their respective churches, it may be sufficient in this place just to acknowledge their important services in the cause of genuine religion. Of them it may be truly affirmed that they have gone out in the highways and hedges, and compelled many a profligate transgressor to come into the fold of Christ.

From this review, we are naturally led to conclude, that God is not a respecter of persons or denominations, as the bigots of all parties are apt to suppose. No: whe-

\* Mr. M‘Robert.

† See Jarratt’s Life, p. 90—102.

ther we offer up our homage to the Great Creator and Governor of the universe by a form, or without a form, as the spirit helpeth our infirmities; whether we devote our infant offspring to God in the ordinance of baptism, or only in the way of prayer and supplication; whether we believe in the doctrine of predestination without having it in our power to comprehend that doctrine, or set ourselves in opposition to it, without any very distinct conceptions of what it is we oppose; and whatever form of church government we prefer, Episcopal, Presbyterian, or Congregational;—in all these cases, the doctrines of the cross, when faithfully preached, become the power of God, and the wisdom of God to the salvation of perishing sinners.

Upon the whole, notwithstanding the strenuous opposition which has lately been made to the gospel of Christ and the powerful obstructions it has still to meet, I am disposed to consider the great interests of vital piety in a progressive state in our country. And when party zeal and unprofitable disputations about the circumstantialia of religion shall cease to molest the peace of the church; when antinomial licentiousness on the one hand, and pharisaic self-righteousness on the other, shall give place to a faith that worketh by love; when professors of the Christian faith shall no longer mistake the fervors of a heated imagination, or the cold and heartless suffrages of the understanding in favour of religion, for vital piety; when, instead of misrepresenting the doc-

trines and depreciating the characters of one another, they shall honestly endeavour to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace:—In a word, when the different denominations shall employ as much zeal and union of exertion to promote the great interests of genuine religion, as its opponents do to obstruct its progress, then may we confidently expect to see much better times in the churches of Virginia.

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